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ITADAKIMASU: Food in Anime

Cooking Master Boy

Anpan Man and other mouth watering treats

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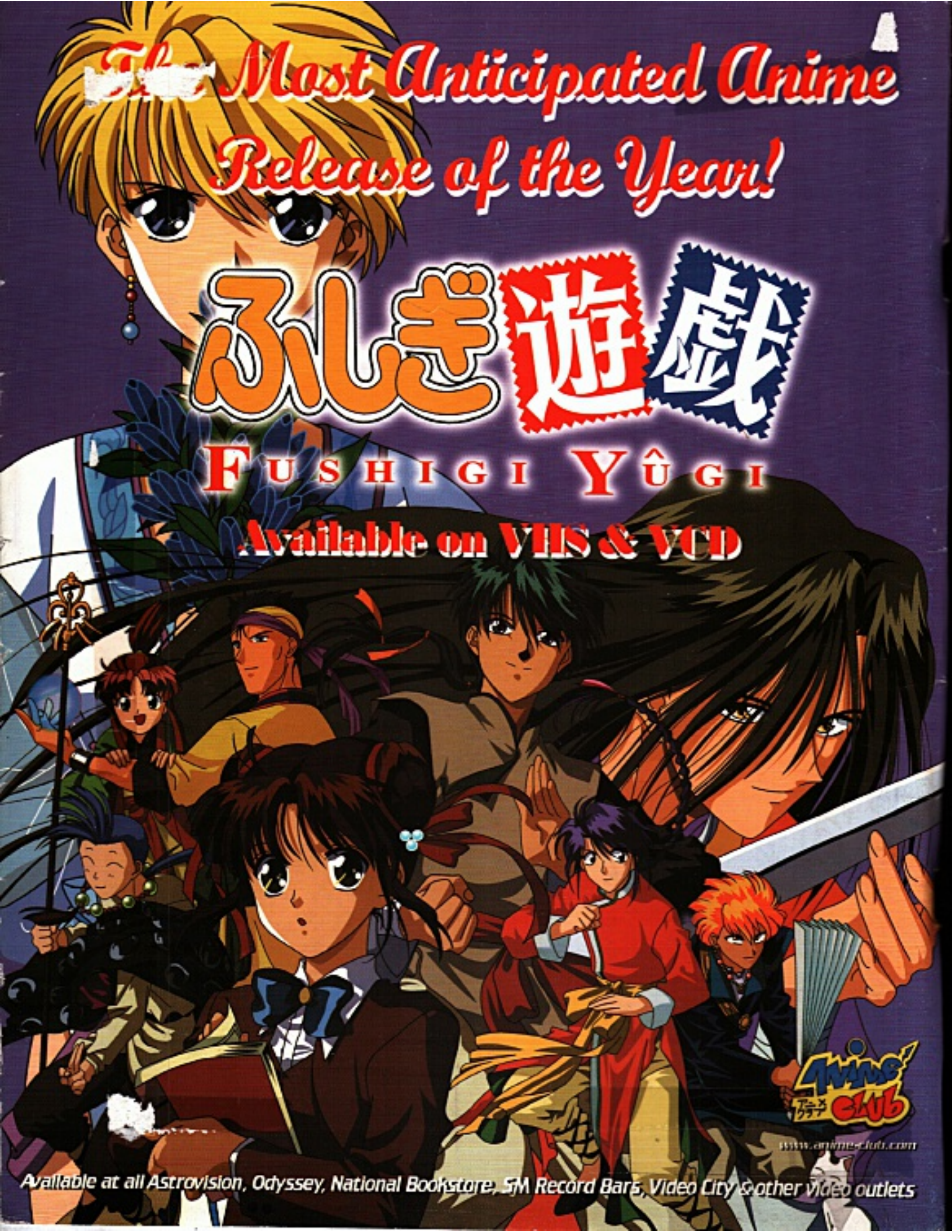
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There are two things upon which relationships are founded on: common experiences and common interests.

Before, the common interest of the *Questor* bullpen was — quite obviously — anime. However, this has been proven untrue ever since Mark Navarro, aka **Walt Disney**, became a part of the regular staff. ^^;

So now that we have Mark, the one thing we all share is a passion for food and eating. And this is my cue to segue into a story.

I was having a meeting with our publisher and distributor when a memo was handed to us informing us that there was a scheduled fumigation for that day. So I asked our distributor, who held offices at the fourth floor of our building, if their pest problem was as bad as ours' (we are at the second floor). Before the dude could reply, our lovable publisher butted in and retorted, "We have a lot of cockroaches here, it's because you guys are eating all the time!"

I suppose that remark sez it all. Check our trash; from styro coffee cups to moldy pizza crusts, from Lay's wrappers to *nori* and fish cracker plastic wrappings...they're all there. All types of cuisine. Or what's left of them. Makes us sound like a bunch of slobs but really, we're just people who are happy to be blessed with the metabolism that we have. We love to eat! Love it! Love it! Ask writer Francis Ibañez, he's nearly broke from bringing in food supplies to the Questor bullpen. ^____^

This passion for food, however, is certainly not exclusive to us. It can be observed that Filipinos in general love to eat. So here is our homage to the anime focusing on food and all the anime characters who have more than a fair share of healthy appetites!

burp! *Gochisousamadeshita!*

Bambi Eloriaga
Henshucho

QUESTOR

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GMA

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...a a piece of bread!!!

by LB Guerrero

The famous line of one of Japan's most celebrated superheroes: "If you're hungry, eat my face."

Huh?!? Weird, you think? Well, not when you find out that this Super Hero is a Super Bun. Yes, Anpanman — staunch defender of justice, and champion of the hungry and malnourished — is a piece of bread. Not ordinary bread, mind you, but "anpan", a traditional Japanese pastry filled with red bean jam (think of *hopia* filling inside a bread bun). Hmmm...yum!

Anpanman is the star of a children's cartoon series called ***Soreike! Anpanman*** (***Go! Anpanman***). Created by Takashi Yanase, the show, which began as a comic serial in 1973 (at a time when Yanase was already 54 years old), only started airing late 1988. It was an instant success. To date, it has more than 500 episodes and piles of merchandise including toys, storybooks and cookbooks, food products, and bread molds (Anpanman has even appeared in a Japanese commemorative stamp). Anpanman's whole story, though, was not retold in the animated series, and you'd have to read details, like his birth, in the comic strip.

Like any hero, the origins of our edible superfriend is mystical. Anpanman was born in an oven in a bakery in the heart of a forest. Baker Jam-Ojisan (Uncle Jam) and his assistant Batako wanted to make living bread. So they put dough in the oven and started praying. As an answer, a star fell from the sky and into the oven chimney, and Anpanman, then just a little baby, emerged. As he got older, Jam-Ojisan trained him to become a superhero.

Anpanman's first mission was rescuing stray dog Cheese from the evil clutches of Baikinman (Bacteria Man). He revitalizes Cheese by feeding him part

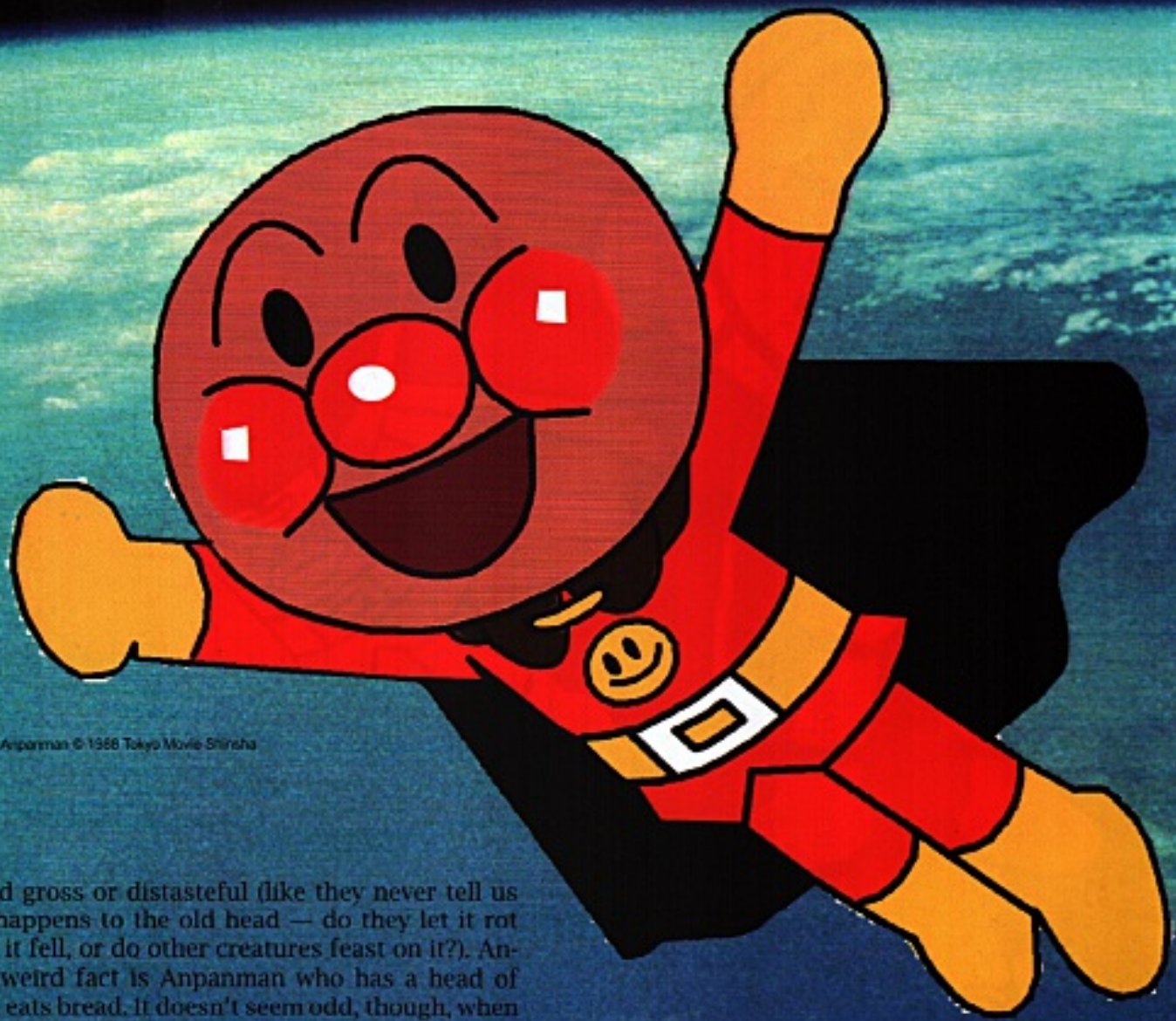
of his head, and then takes him home to live with Jam-Ojisan and Batako.

Baikinman, a germ-loving creature who enjoys mischief and hates baths, becomes his archenemy. And Anpanman, together with his best friends Shokupanman (White bread Man; a bishounen superhero with a slice of white bread for a head) and Currypanman (Curry Bread Man), battle Baikinman and his partner in crime Dokinchan, to keep the world germ-free and healthy.

Anpanman has lots of other food-friends throughout the whole series. You have characters with heads of rice-balls, bowls of rice with toppings, and, in one wild-west episode, hamburgers. The show surprises the audience with new characters every time. Not all of them are heroes, though, but they all help Anpanman make the world a better place.

Does Anpanman ever get defeated? Nope. But sometimes, he gets beaten up badly. His powers are extremely weakened when he feeds part of his head to other characters, and also when his head gets wet and soggy. When that happens, Jam-Ojisan simply bakes him a new head! To replace the old one, they simply throw the newly-baked head at his face, and the old one rolls off. LOL!!!

The whole premise of the show is quite bizarre — who would have heard of any other superhero with a head of bread that he feeds to the unfortunate? But it glosses over stuff which might be con-



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sidered gross or distasteful (like they never tell us what happens to the old head — do they let it rot where it fell, or do other creatures feast on it?). Another weird fact is Anpanman who has a head of bread, eats bread. It doesn't seem odd, though, when you watch it. And it certainly is a far cry from the trend in American children's cartoons today where they capitalize on grossness and where characters are made to make fun of each other to elicit laughs from the audience.

What makes the show so appealing is its total wholesomeness which makes it an ideal kids' show. But unlike other shows for young children, Anpanman the series is not at all sickeningly cute, as it portrays very funny (sometimes hilarious) situations with plain down-to-earth humor. (The show feels like a *Mojacko* for younger children). And, in the end, good always triumphs over evil, and children, aside from learning to appreciate healthy food, are also taught how to lead healthy lives (like brushing their teeth regularly, etc.).

Unfortunately, Anpanman is not aired on any local channel. To watch the show, you'd have to look out for the Mandarin dub which airs once in a while (in the mornings) in a Chinese cable channel, or get a VHS/DVD copy in raw Japanese. Still, for non-Chinese/Japanese speakers, the story is easy enough to understand. So far, some of the episodes that have been airing/re-running in cable are Happy Birthday Anpanman, Rice Ball Man and Mini Rice Ball Man, Anpanman and the Building Block Castle, and a special episode which features a fairytale crossover.

The show also features some easy to follow musical sing-along and dance-along sequences within, or after, some episodes. (It is worthwhile to note that Yanase-San is an award-winning children's song writer.) And before you think it's corny, watch it first. It's fun and wacky in a kiddie sort of way ^__^.

In fact, if you watch enough episodes, pretty soon you'll find yourself...uhh...dancing to the Anpanman March.

When the Questor staff is hungry, LB Guerrero throws part of her face (and other body parts) into the bullpen.

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The Good, The Bad, and the Hungry!

by Robin C. Rivero

AFTER watching another mouth-watering episode of Cooking Master Boy, I found myself wondering about two things—when the next meal would be (preferably a 16-course laureat) and who the other great cooks of anime are.

By now, fans of the Nippon Animation series, Cooking Master Boy or Chuuka Ichiban! (China's Best!), are most certainly convinced that no other anime character can cook as well as 13-year-old Liu Mao Hsing. He is, after all, the youngest "Super Chef" of all time (cue the unveiling of Mao's "Super" symbol to rousing gong music). Moreover, he happens to be a good MALE cook who is also the star of his own show.

Good Cooks

Probably the only other character who fits that description is Kenshin Himura (Rurouni Kenshin). Kenshin's cooking skills aren't as stellar as Mao's, of course, but he more than makes up for that with his skill with the sword (super understatement). And hey, Kenshin can keep house and look after the kids too! He can't be too perfect now, can he?

Another major male character who can cook, and in fact would rather do nothing else, is Akito Tenkawa of Martian Successor Nadesico. Trauma experienced while living in a colony on Mars made Akito turn to cooking. However, to his dismay, Akito is also an exceptionally gifted pilot and the need to combat the enemy in an Aestivalis regularly sidetracks his culinary bent. To his even greater dismay, he is also exceptionally prone to uncomfortable love polygons that continually rob him of any peace in the kitchen.

Most other male cooks in anime are likelier to be supporting characters only, like Sakura's dad Fujitaka Kinomoto from Card Captor Sakura. This archaeology prof and single parent somehow always finds time to prepare sumptuous meals for his family and look after their other needs as well.

Generally, though, the good cooks in anime, especially the ones who look after families, are female. Take ChiChi (Dragon Ball Z) for instance.

Although I haven't exactly seen anyone's eyes glaze over while raving about her cooking, it's safe

to assume that Chichi cooks well enough to keep a family of Saiyans happy. Besides, ChiChi has a vile temper; it would be extremely unhealthy to tell her otherwise.

A goddess like Belldandy, however, needn't prove anything. As one fan pointed out, anything cooked by the lead character of Oh! My Goddess can only be described as "divine."

Some series have more good cooks in their cast than others. In the Tenchi Muyo! series, Sasami is the one in charge of preparing the family meals but Washu can also cook well (check out the episode where she cooks for Tenchi's young nephew.) Then, in Ranma 1/2, there are more cooks than you can

shake a panda at. These include Kasumi Tendou, Ukyo Kounji and Shampoo.

Of the three, Kasumi would appear to be the most "typical" cook; her dishes are yummy, but they're just that—good food. Restaurant owner and okonomiyaki expert Ukyo cooks the best okonomiyaki for miles around for sure, but beware surprises like "gunpowder okonomiyaki!" Shampoo also owns a restaurant but she's more often seen fighting with Ranma's other fiancées than cooking.

Incidentally, there are other female fighters who happen to be good cooks too. The marionette Cherry from the Saber Marionette series is one and so is Makoto Kino, better known as Sailor Jupiter. Jiyu of Jubei-chan Ninja Girl has a specialty make from egg called "Jubei-yaki" while Galaxy Fraulein Yuna once fried an egg using the heat of reentering the earth's atmosphere. How's that for "culinary flare"?

There are also good cooks who, like Akito, are thrust into roles they don't really appreciate. These include

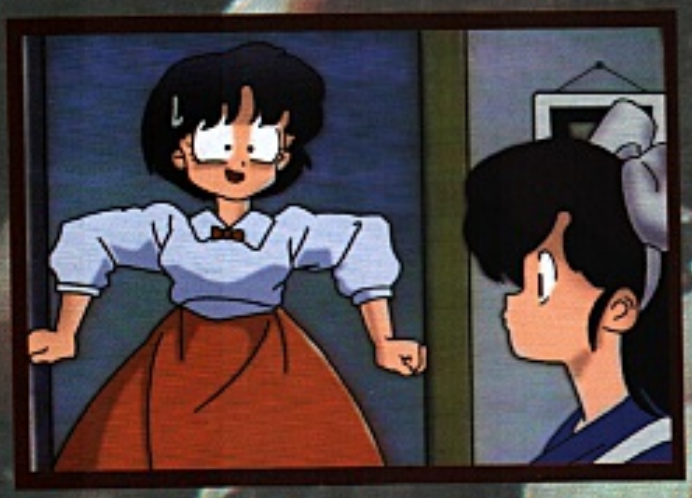
Yume of Ninja Cadets, a trained ninja but a gentle cook at heart, and reluctant athlete Anna Respighi of Battle Athletes. This shy girl would rather cook than train for her upcoming competitions.

A cook who is also a bit of a "kook" in my opinion is the Lost Universe sharpshooter Millie Nocturne. Yeah, she cooks well but she also has a tendency to blow up the kitchen. She also tends to brag about winning different beauty pageants like...er...Miss Paper Cutter.

Bad Cooks

Maddening personality quirks aside, any anime fan would know that there are some characters who are genuinely—devastatingly—bad cooks. Ranma's Akane Tendou immediately comes to mind. The poor girl has simply had one culinary mishap after another, and the one time she whipped up what looked like a truly magnificent—and edible—feast, the guy who ate it had a vicious stomach cramp because he was only used to eating pickles. *biiiiig teardrop*

Another Rumiko Takahashi character who, for the safety of all concerned, should not EVER be allowed to cook is Lum. Urusei Yatsura's lovely oni comes up with dishes that are explosively spicy (not an exageration) and are generally unfit for human consumption, owing to their alien origin. The unfortunate individual who does manage to sample Lum's cooking will no doubt find himself...ahhh...much "changed" indeed.



Nadesico ladies Yurika Misumaru, Megumi Reinard, Ryoko Subaru prove to be disastrous cooks as well in that episode where they all try to impress Akito (poor guy). Kenshin's Kamiya Kaoru isn't any better—heck, Yoshi once told her, "Dirt is better than your cooking!"—but even though she'd probably burn miso-shiru if left alone in the kitchen, I doubt Kenshin would ever really mind (lucky girl).

Now, there's a reason NERV's chief of operations, Misato Katsuragi (Neon Genesis Evangelion) can and will subsist entirely on beer and instant ramen. It's the same reason Eiko of Project A-ko avoids Shiko's cooking like the plague, even if they are the very best of friends.

The same can be said of anything Minako Aino

or Sailor Venus slaps together in the kitchen. Her fellow sailor soldier, Usagi Tsukino, Sailor Moon herself, is just as kitchen-inept. That, however, never stopped Usagi from having a veeeeeery healthy appetite.

Gluttons

Naturally, if there are cooks, good or bad, there will be characters who love food. There are also characters who love food a little...nah, who am i kidding? ... WAY too much more than most.

Aside from Usagi, perhaps the most famous female hearty eater is Miaka Yuki. The Suzkaku no miko of Fushigi Yuugi not only consumes enormous quantities of food, but she does so with the finesse of a barbarian. Even worse, her ravenous appetite often distracts her right smack in the middle of a crisis (sorry Miaka fans, but it's true!)

Great gobblers too are Slayers' Lina Inverse and

Yuri, Galaxy Fraulein Yuna's android-friend (yes, a food-powered android. Believe it.)

In Card Captor Sakura, Sakura isn't exactly what you'd call a hefty eater but the way her face lights up whenever she bites into anything, you can tell she's a kid who really enjoys her food. Her brother's pal, Yukito Tsukishiro, on the other hand, enjoys food too, but he prefers his meals not snack-size but "sack"-size.

Among the guys, the fighters are usually voracious, presumably because they need the energy for fighting. A number of them are Rumiko Takahashi characters—Ranma and Genma Saotome, the boxer Hatanaka Kosaku from One Pound Gospel (no surprise since his coach constantly starves him) and Lum's ex-fiancé Rei. What IS it with Rumiko Takahashi and food?!

Sanosuke Sagara is Rurouni Kenshin's token big mouth in more ways than one. He also has this nasty habit of not paying for his meals at the local restaurant. Tsk-tsk.

While more of a sweet-tooth than a glutton, Vash Stampede's nemesis in Trigun, Legato Bluesummers, is regularly seen eating just the same. It's a little strange, though, because Legato has this cool, dark, brooding thing going for him, not to mention the ability to control minds, but then he's also portrayed as someone with a weakness for ice cream and cake. Go figure.

Dessert anyone?

"In almost any series, there's a character who loves to eat," according to my favorite anime meisters at Anima Anime. Most of the time, they add, there is also the "stereotype girlfriend or love interest who cannot cook." Why is a little hard to say outside of speculation.

The food-loving character often functions as comic relief in different series and the fact that a female protagonist can't cook is a source of humor as well. At the same time, one fan pointed out, "It's a way of making the character less perfect."

"If Akane were a good cook, and she fights well, and she gets Ranma too in the end, where's the fun in that?" he added.

Cooking itself, though, is a theme just about anyone can appreciate simply because the end result involves eating. It has been one of those elements that get tossed into an anime plot every now and then but, with Cooking Master Boy, it became the focus of the story.

And if you ask me, it's a good solid story in any anime series that makes fans come back for second servings.

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Itadakimasu!

by Gino Chavez

The Filipino's penchant for Japanese food lies in its similarity and at the same time dissimilarity with Filipino cuisine. Both countries being islands surrounded by bountiful seas with lands suitable for growing grains, it is no wonder that Japan and the Philippines share a common diet of rice and fish. Other standard Japanese ingredients like soy sauce, tofu and fresh vegetables are also regular fare in Filipino cooking. Although such basic components are similar, both cuisine are distinctly unique in a lot of ways. Differences lie in the preparation of ingredients, method of cooking and presentation of dishes. These contrasting features can account for the popularity of Japanese food among Filipinos – the fact that familiar foods can be made and served in highly unusual ways.

So without further ado, *bon apetit* or should I say, *itadakimasu!*

History of Japanese Cuisine

In the third century BC, Korea had already developed rice-growing techniques that were passed to the Japanese by the Yayoi, a migrating tribe that settled in Japan. Rice came to be used for more than eating, including for paper, fuel, wine, building materials and animal feed.

During the development of Japan, the Chinese contributed soy sauce, tea and chopsticks. Other influences arrived in Japan via Korea, including Buddhism, which, despite the pre-existing Shinto and Confucian religions, became the official religion of the sixth century. For the next 1200 years, meat was officially forbidden to the Japanese people.

Then in the 16th century, the Portuguese, followed by the Dutch, came looking to corner the trade market with Japan. The westerners introduced fried foods, which is why the breaded, fried tempura seem so very un-Japanese. While the Japanese enjoyed this type of cooking, it was not something that evolved naturally. The traders also brought tobacco, sugar and corn.

Around 1600 (and lasting until 1868), Japan's shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa feared the Europeans would spark great wars; so he closed the ports and expunged the foreigners. During this period of isolation, Japan's culture became even more deeply rooted. The main religions of Buddhism and Shinto emphasize the seasons and this came to be reflected in the foods served. In fact, it is because of Buddhism that meals feature five flavors and colors, which respectively are: sweet, spicy, salty, bitter and sour; and yellow, black, white, green and red.

US Commodore Perry forced the Japanese to renew trade with the West in 1854 and soon, a new Japanese order took power. Interestingly, the new Emperor Meiji staged a New Year's feast in 1872 designed to embrace the Western world; it was completely European in detail and for the first time in over a thousand years, the people publicly ate meat.

"What makes Japanese dishes Japanese?"

If we asked you to think of one Japanese food, what comes to your mind?

Sushi, raw fish, tempura, tofu? Good. With Japanese restaurants and sushi bars popping up all over, Japanese food is no longer considered as one of the world's unsolved mysteries like it once was (we hope!).

In fact, more people are recognizing Japanese food as one of the world's healthiest cuisine. With rice and seafood at its base, the traditional Japanese diet is low in cholesterol, fat and calories, and high in fiber.

No wonder Japanese people have the highest longevity rate.

Anyway, like all other cuisine, Japanese food is a product of the culture that produced it. But what exactly does it take for the dish to be genuinely "Japanese"?

Environment, Climate and the Diet

From the snow-capped mountains of northern Hokkaido to the sandy shores of Okinawa, there are distinctive differences in diet and cooking styles between the different regions of Japan. The abundance of products within each region helped develop the contrast.

Despite the differences, though, there lies a common ground. As you may already know, Japan is an island country. Wherever you might be, you'll find that there are plenty of fish and other marine products. With the climate perfect for growing good crops of rice, the Japanese diet consists of rice as the staple food, with fish and veggies forming the staple side dishes.

The main seasoning here is *shoyu* or soy sauce and *miso*, both of which are made from fermented soybeans with rice and salt.

The basic Japanese meal includes rice, a bowl of soup (*sui-mono*) and two or three side dishes. Green tea is usually sipped at the end of the meal.

All in all, when it comes to describing the Japanese diet in a

few words, "natural" and "harmony" best fit the description. Whatever dish you make, never kill the natural flavor of the ingredients. The ingredients must be in harmony to make one dish; and the dish should be in harmony with other dishes to make a meal. Food must be in harmony with nature, including the person who is dining.

The Relationship with Rice

How many times in a week do you eat rice? The answer for Japanese is simple. Daily. Rich in carbohydrates and protein, rice has been the staple of Japanese diet for as long as they can remember.

Since the forces of nature affected rice crops, various kinds of ceremonies were offered to the gods throughout the year as well. Other than a source of good nutrition, rice has played another important factor among the Japanese. From ancient times until the mid-19th century, rice was used as currency for paying taxes and wages. Like the rank of the feudal lords were all measured by how much rice they had, rice was a ruler which indicated one's economic status. Try to think of banks filled with rice instead of money! Yikes!

But the real reason why the people of Japan treasure rice plants so much, lies in the fact that it transforms itself to numerous amount of products which are essential to people's daily lives. From white rice, *mochi* (rice cakes), *senbei* (rice crackers), and miso for adding flavor are born. Even from the straw part of the rice plant, people have made ropes, sandals and many more.

The Sense of Season

Japan's traditional culture is often described as the seasonal culture for so much resolves around the changing seasons. With importance placed upon freshness and natural flavor, people love to eat ingredients at their *shun* or "now-in-season" in Japanese.

Bamboo shoots, tuna and herring of spring; bonito of early summer; *matsutake* (a type of mushroom) and chestnuts of autumn. Eating the ingredients at their shun is believed to be good for your health too.

Even the color of the chopstick counts

Before actually eating the food, you must enjoy it with the eyes first. Eyes are as large as the stomach. That is the Japanese way of dining.

In Japan, food and dishes are considered to be a form of art. The Japanese people really enjoy the artistic sense and beauty of the display and arrangement of food and the choice of receptacles for serving it. Sometimes, even the rooms or the place where eating is done are considered as part of the art. The more beautiful the food looks, the more delicious it is thought to be.

Now then, what exactly is the aesthetic sense that governs serving food? A sense of season, a feeling for nature, and an eye for color must be skillfully incorporated. Let's say it is one of the hottest days of the year and you want to serve something that would cool-off the heat. The food is *somen* which is white, thread-like noodles dipped in soup. For this, you might want to use a transparent blue glass bowl with blue chopsticks, some ice cubes and a green maple leaf floating on top. Harmony. That is the word.

Dishes should not just taste good; they must also look good. Professional Japanese chefs are required to study art. Painting and flower arrangement are extensively used to learn about proper color combinations.

Dinning Etiquette of Japan

Some notable dinner etiquette applicable during a Japanese meal is as follows:

- The lid of the rice bowl is placed upside down outside of the tray to the left. Soon afterward, the lid of the soup-bowl should be placed on the guest's right. When eating politely, it is proper to put the bowl of food on the left palm.
- A second helping of rice or soup may be served on a separate tray by the host. The guests must warmly accept the bowl with both hands, taking care to put it down on their trays once, before beginning to eat from it again.
- A morsel from a dish should be followed by a mouthful of rice.
- As a rule, no napkins are used in a Japanese meal. The guest uses either a paper or handkerchief he has with him.
- At the end of the meal, the tips of the chopsticks are dipped in tea poured into the empty rice-bowl and then wiped off on a clean piece of paper. All the lids are replaced.
- The guest says, *Gochisousama* with a bow. This concludes the dinner at a Japanese house.

Handling of Chopsticks

Chopsticks should be placed on the table pointing to the diner's left, with the tips resting on the *hashioki*. Take the chopsticks in your right hand and transfer them to the left hand. Then take the proper grip on them with the fingers of the right hand.

- DO NOT use your chopsticks to shift dishes around.
- DO NOT wave your chopsticks about in the air while trying to decide what to eat next.
- DO NOT rummage about in the food looking for the tastiest morsel.
- DO NOT pick up a dish with the hand that is holding the chopsticks.
- DO NOT point your chopsticks at people when you are eating; never lick them or spear food with the points.
- DO NOT hold the chopsticks with your fist, since this appears as if they are being held as a weapon to hurt people.

Also, put the chopsticks on the chopstick rest when not in use. This offers a convenient position to rest your eating utensils without worrying about unclean surfaces making contact with the points.

Table Manners

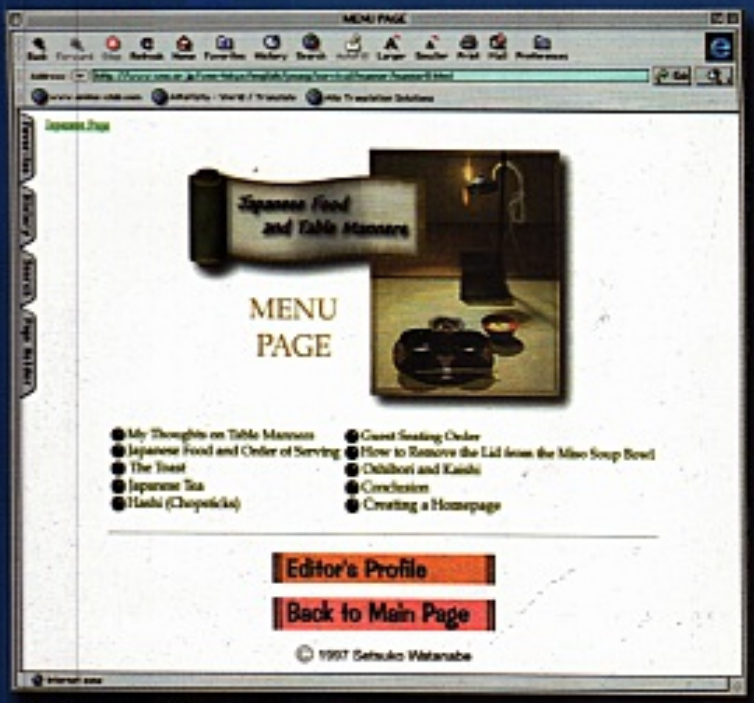
Westerners are often taught not to make a noise when eating soup, whereas in Japan, it's okay to slurp one's noodles.

Don't start sipping the soup as soon as it is placed in front of you, because Japanese meals are usually served all at once, rather than as separate courses, so wait until all the food is on the table and everyone is ready before you begin.

Before starting a meal, say *itadakimasu*; after finishing, say gochisousama.

Gino Chavez drinks shoyu whenever he goes to restaurants like Isshin and Zaifu.

at got away!



MESHIAGARE!

Ok, let's eat! My quest for Chuuka Ichiban made me hungry. And I did some stops on Japanese Food and Culture sites. Here are some of the places you should definitely visit:

Tokyo Food Page

http://www.bento.com/index.html

The Tokyo Food Page is a well laid-out website touching on Japanese Culture and Cuisine. This site has one of the most comprehensive directory of shops and restaurants in Tokyo (very handy when you win a trip to Japan). And if you feel like becoming a *sake* aficionado, check out past issues of the ***Sake World Newsletter***. Of course, there is also the Japanese specialty cuisine, where you can learn exactly what you're eating.

"Oooh, what's that?"
"Unagi."
"Mmmm, yummy. What is it exactly?"
"Grilled eel."

This section is complete in information, giving you a backgrounder on the history of the food itself and the many cooking varieties done. Plus, there are articles that give insights on the Japanese culinary history that make for a delightful reading.

The Sushi Vocabulary is extensive. Give it a bit of memorization and you can read off a Japanese sushi menu exactly what you want, and avoid those you aren't ready for yet. Don't you just love surprises?

One of the sections I like here is the Japanese recipe collection, which gives you the list of ingredients and manner of preparation, complete with a delectable picture! That Crabmeat with Wasabi Mayonnaise sure looks good!

The Virtual Japanese Restaurant

http://library.thinkquest.org/20013/index.htm?tqskip=1

A group of students came up with this nice website. This has information about Japan, more etiquette, and of course, food! The food section is quite extensive, and gives you details and pictures ranging from sashimi and tempura, to udon, gohan, and other names which reminds me of ***Dragonball Z***.

Sushi Online Guide

http://www.geocities.com/citynite/

Sushi will never be the same once you try your hand at making your own for your guests. I just hope you don't have friends like mine (review my "urban legends"). This website is a wonderful resource of getting what you need to make your own sushi. There are even pictures along with the step-by-step descriptions in making Maki, FutoMaki, and Nigiri (hand-rolled sushi). An added bonus is a section devoted to Sake (rice wine) and sake cocktails. *Kanpai!*

Wow, in spite of the fact that I wasn't able to do the Cooking Master Boy article, it felt like I did, in a way. I mean, I traversed the Internet looking for the nicest sites you can visit as well for Japanese food resources (minus the magic cooking utensils).

All this food talk has made me hungry. I'm off to treat my friends to sushi!

Before consuming, Nick Ballesteros should be dipped in soy rice side up.

The Website tha

by Nick Ballesteros

When it rains, it pours. That saying entered my mind as I feverishly hunted the Internet for a website to review. You see, I was tasked to scour the Internet for ***Cooking Master Boy / Chuuka Ichiban*** websites and review them for your convenience. Cool, I thought. I'll reserve my weekend for surfing and submit the article that night. If only I knew what lay ahead.

So, with California maki on the side, I fired up my notebook and went straight to *http://www.yahoo.com*, my favorite search engine. And **Yahoo** didn't fail me; I clicked the link to **Cooking Master Boy Central** (*http://members.optushome.com.au/davidlee1/chuuka/*). But all I got was an error message. Strange. I tried some other links, but all I got were one-pager overviews, not entire websites dedicated to the anime. Undaunted, I tried connecting to **Anipike** (*http://www.anipike.com*). What the?!? Still an error page! Can I use my lifeline? Text the editor. Yup, she confirmed Anipike is down. But I can try their mirror, and she gave the address. Tough, that site is also down. What's happening?!?!?

The sites might be online some other time. So I tried again that Saturday afternoon, then on Sunday morning, and then in the afternoon. No success whatsoever. And like the proverbial one that got away, Chuuka Ichiban sites were spared from dissection.

But we don't want to disappoint you, our faithful readers, so we came up with the next best thing: Japanese Food Website reviews!

Undeniably, some items in the Japanese menu can take some getting used to. Here's proof. Remember the California maki I had with me? Those pretty little things gave one of my beer buddies a tummy ache a few weeks back. Now, I enticed one of our lady visitors to try one. Aren't they pretty little things? She took one, dipped it on soy with wasabe, and popped it into her mouth. Her smile turned to something I can't describe, then she took off from her seat and started jumping, swallowed the whole maki and grabbed a coke.

Still, another friend put a maki in her mouth, stared at me for quite some time, grabbed the table napkin and out came that pretty little thing like it was untouched. And then there was this guy who took only the raw shrimp sitting atop the small ball of rice, and asked if the black wrapper should be eaten too (the *nori*, which is basically seaweed). These stories can easily be passed off as urban legends but I swear, they're all true!

AN ART FORM

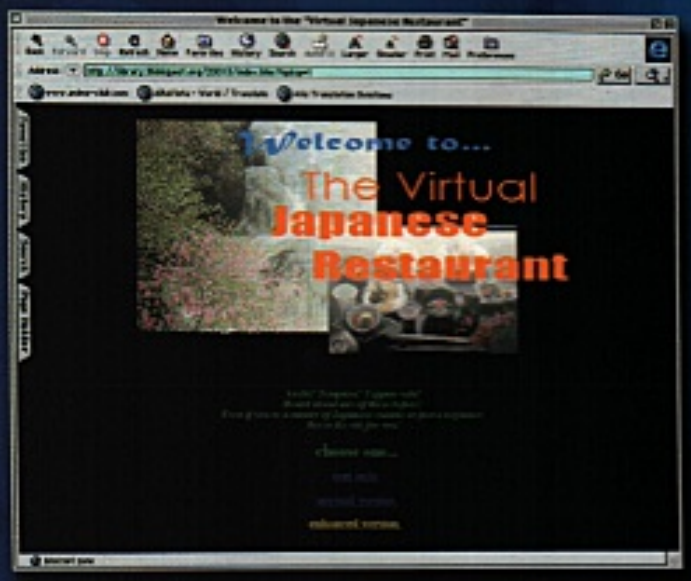
To eat Japanese food is to immerse yourself in Japanese culture. Well, at least that's what happens when you go to a Japanese restaurant, not the fastfood-type shops. To the Japanese, presentation is very important. And their food is feast to the eyes. You learn to appreciate the food even more when you learn about its history and culture.

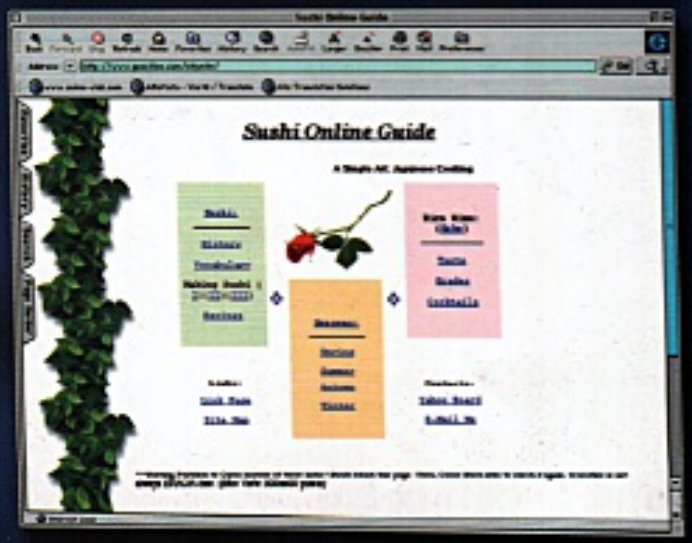
MIND YOUR MANNERS

I'm sure you have heard about the Japanese Tea Ceremony at one time or another. I think I saw that in ***Karate Kid.*** Well, there are also a few pointers when dining the Japanese way. Did you know that there is a seating arrangement, and that chopsticks should be handled in a distinct manner? These sites should help you learn about these things.

Japanese Food and Table Manners
http://www.wnn.or.jp/wnn-tokyo/english/young/survival/manner/manner0.html
A couple of teachers came up with this very simple website focusing mainly on Japanese table manners. Simple yet straight to the point. But somehow they forgot that there are lefties in this world...like me! How do I hold the chopsticks?!

Sushi Ettiquette
http://www.wcnet.org/~kralizec/sushi/s-etiquette.html
Hmmm. Did you know that sushi should actually be dipped rice side up? Many people – including me – give the rice side a "soy bath" then into my mouth it goes in one swift move. It's a maneuver that takes years to master. But it's not supposed to be that way. When you're done reading this section, switch to the home page at *http://www.wcnet.org/~kralizec/sushi/sushi.html.* It has a glossary of sushi terms, among others.





Liu-Mao Hsing

Cooking Master Boy

by Igor Cabbab

China is divided into four regions; Shanghai, Szechuan, Guangzhou (Canton) and Beijing (Peking). Each one has a particular masterful way of cooking food. Only a few have mastered them all and have gone on to create their own style to add to the plethora of cooking techniques and flavorful dishes.

One of the few, and the youngest at that, is Liu Mao-Hsing, the pride of Szechuan like his mother before him, "The Fairy of Szechuan" Pai. Mao is the Cooking Master Boy, the youngest Guangzhou Superchef ever to attain that rank. His late mother was also one of the greatest Guangzhou Superchefs ever in China and he is poised to follow in her footsteps. He left his sister Karin to man their restaurant in Szechuan province and found his way to Guangzhou where he met Master Chef Chou Yu.

Strict Chou Yu trains him in the ways of the cooking world. An expert on Chinese cuisine, General Lee, orders Mao to take the Guangzhou Superchef exam which Mao passes with flying colors with the help of Master Chou Yu's training. General Lee also orders him to seek out the Legendary Cooking Utensils. Mao does so and embarks on his journey accompanied by Chou Yu's daughter Mei Li .

He does well to practice the Guangzhou Superchef motto which is to bring happiness to others via cooking. His journeys take him on a direct collision course with the Underground Cooking World who are also after the Legendary Cooking Utensils.

From Chiang-Jiang the home of pandas to the fountainheads of Szechuan, let Mao drench you in the sweat of happiness with his teeth snapping, finger-licking and lip-smacking satisfying cooking which either makes you a kid again, floats you on clouds or takes you to a trip to heaven and back.

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Name : Liu Mao-Hsing
Nickname : Mao
Age : 13
Eyes : Brown
Hair : Blue
Occupation : Youngest Guangzhou Superchef
Relatives : Pai (Guangzhou Superchef, aka The Fairy of Szechuan, mother, deceased). Karin (sister)
Friends : Mei Li. Shiro (Shilou). Sanche. Steel Stick Shell (best dimsum chef of the continent). Leon (master of the Seven Star Knives)
Cooking teachers: His mother Pai and Chou Yu (Guangzhou Superchef of Yang's Spring Restaurant)
Adversaries : Shou An and The Underground Cooking World

BEYOND BROADCASTING

50 YEARS

1950-2000

WHERE

GMA

WHERE YOU BELONG

Cooking Master Boy (Chuuka Ichiban)

Sora (Sky)
Opening Song

Kagayaite itai yo ne Itsu mo waratte itai yo ne
Heya no sumi no guriin mo genki da shi
Demo yume mite 'ta tomodachi ga akiramete __matta
Yuuki-zukeru kokoro no dokka de hotto shite 'tari shite

Ima nara umi e mukau basu ni ma ni au
Kondo dake wa misugoshicha ikenai ki ga suru

Aoi sora no shita de mou ichido
Tsubasa wo hirogete
Ichido shika nai Life
Sou da yo ne Mottainai yo ne

Ai sarete itai yo ne Honki de ai shite mitai yo ne
Chiisa na buranko ga yurete 'ru

Demo ano hito wa watashi no unmei no hito darou ka?
Hontou wa wakatte 'ru kuse ni fuan de mendou de

Itsu datte kinjo no kouen de mayotte bakari
Kizutsuketaku nai ja nakute kizutsukitakunai dake

Akai sora miagete itsu made mo
Atsui kaze ni fukarete
Konna ni jiyuu na no ni
Tobanai nante kanashii ja nai

Ima nara umi e mukau basu ni ma ni au
Kondo dake wa misugoshicha ikenai ki ga suru

Aoi sora no shita de mou ichido
Tsubasa wo hirogete
Ichido shika nai Life
Omou you ni ikite miyou

Akai sora dakarete doko made mo
Kaze wo oikakete
Arukinareta michi ni se wo mukete hashitte miyou

Kimi Sae Ireba (If You Only Are)
Vocals: DEEN

Kimi sae ireba donna shoubu mo kachitsuzukeru
Kurayami wo kirisaku you ni I need your love

Suu cm (senchi) no zure wo kasanete guuzen wa unmei ni naru
Kuttaku naku warau koe ni menjite
Yojigen no kaiwa mo narete tsuihikikomareteyuku

*Kimi sae ireba harukana michi mo koeteyukeru
donna toki mo manorinuku
Daichi no mizu wa sukitooru hana wo sakaseru kate
Kurayami wo kirisaku you ni I need your love*

Umare kawattemo...
Sonna serifu kodawari wa boku no yowasa
Chotto nigegoshi da to shitemo kawaranu ai wa chikaeru
Kantan jya nai futari dakara ii

Usukushii no wa kowarekake da to shitteru kara?
Kisu de tagai wo kakushite
Suihensen no saki ni ashita ga aru to shitara
Namikaze mo waruku wa nai I'm no match for you

*Repeat

Arifureta kotoba wo narabete La La Love

Aoi sora ni Deatta (We Met in the Blue Sky)
Ending Song

Kyou wa shigunaru kugurinukete anata ni ai ni yuku wa
Nigiwau machi de kirameku kaze hoho ni fuita kara
Kumoma ni nozoita tenshi-tachi no hashigo
Ude wo nobashi shizuka ni nori owaranai doko made mo yukeru

Aoi sora ni deaeta
Donna toki mo onaji onaji michi wo mitsumete itai
Saigo made akiramenaide yume no kakera

atsumete nanairo ni kagayakasete
ahh Sagashite 'ta kotae wa kitto soko ni aru kara

Hontou wa sukoshi mune ga itai Nani ka ga sukoshi zureta
Kyou no hate ni wa ittai donna ashita wo te ni suru no?
Zattou ni magireta kare ga nijinde yuku

Motto soba ni motto chikaku anata wo kanjite itakatta

Aoi sora wo mite 'tara akogarete 'ta mirai no kodawari ga kiete yuku
Ima de wa sorezore chigau michi wo
Arukidashita futari ni onaji dake ai ga mieru
ahh Dou ka wasurenaide egao dake wa zutto..

Sclippai ai shita Demo anata no yume ni tsuite wa yukenakatta
Hora Ano natsu ga chikazuite 'ku
"Negai-goto ga kanau yo" Sou itsu mo hanashite 'ta ne
ahh Waratte aeru hi ga kuru nante sabishii

Aoi sora ni deaeta
Donna toki mo onaji onaji michi wo mitsumete itai
Saigo made akirameenaide yume no kakera
atsumete nanairo ni kagayakasete
ahh Sagashite 'ta kotae wa kitto soko ni aru kara

Kaze no you ni jiyuu (Free as the Wind)
Ending song
Vocals: Keiko Utoku

Watashi wa yume no nakade anata ni atte imasu feel me
tomodachi no koto ni naru to tokuige ni hanasu
anata ga suki

Shitto suru jibun no koto wa donna fuu ni utsutte iru no ? demo
aoi honoo wa akai honoo yori zutto ondo ga takai

Kawaita mizuumi ni amamizu ga shimikonde yuku you ni
kokoro no naka wo tabi shiyou mokutekichi wa kitto aru...

* Onaji jidai ni meguriaeta no
kaze no you ni jiyuu (free as the wind)
sonna futari ni shinu made ni nareru kana
anata e no kimochi wa uchuu no PAWA-

Anata no ude no nakade watashi wa yotte imasu with you
itsumade mo zutto isshoni iru koto dake ga ima hoshii mono

Urunda hitomi no oku asu wo shinjite toketeku you na
karada juu no atsui jounetsu to yasashisa ni nemuritai...

Mitomeau koto yurushiau koto
kaze no you ni jiyuu (free as the wind)
sonna kimochi de ikiru koto dekiru yo ne
anata kara moratta mugen no PAWA-

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the most delectable seafood around. Mao cooks his mother's 'Golden Fried Rice' which is only made up of rice and egg yolks. Although Mao's dish seems simpler, General Lee finds Mao's dish superior than Shou An's even though Mao has had no formal training. Upset that he has lost to a kid, Shou An requests a rematch. Lee agrees and declares that if Shou An loses the match, not only will he lose his 'First Grade Level' but he will also never be allowed to cook ever again! The same applied to Mao. The topic was 'Mabo Tofu' with a twist. Since the basic Mabo Tofu has five components, there will be a sixth component and this will be the challenge for the combatants and their cooking skills. Mao's adventure in cooking begins!

Cooking Master Boy (ChuAo Ichiban) © 1996 Etsushi Ogawa. All rights reserved. First Published in Japan in 1996 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

The Nekomancer looks like seafood.

Wok with Mao

by The Nekomancer

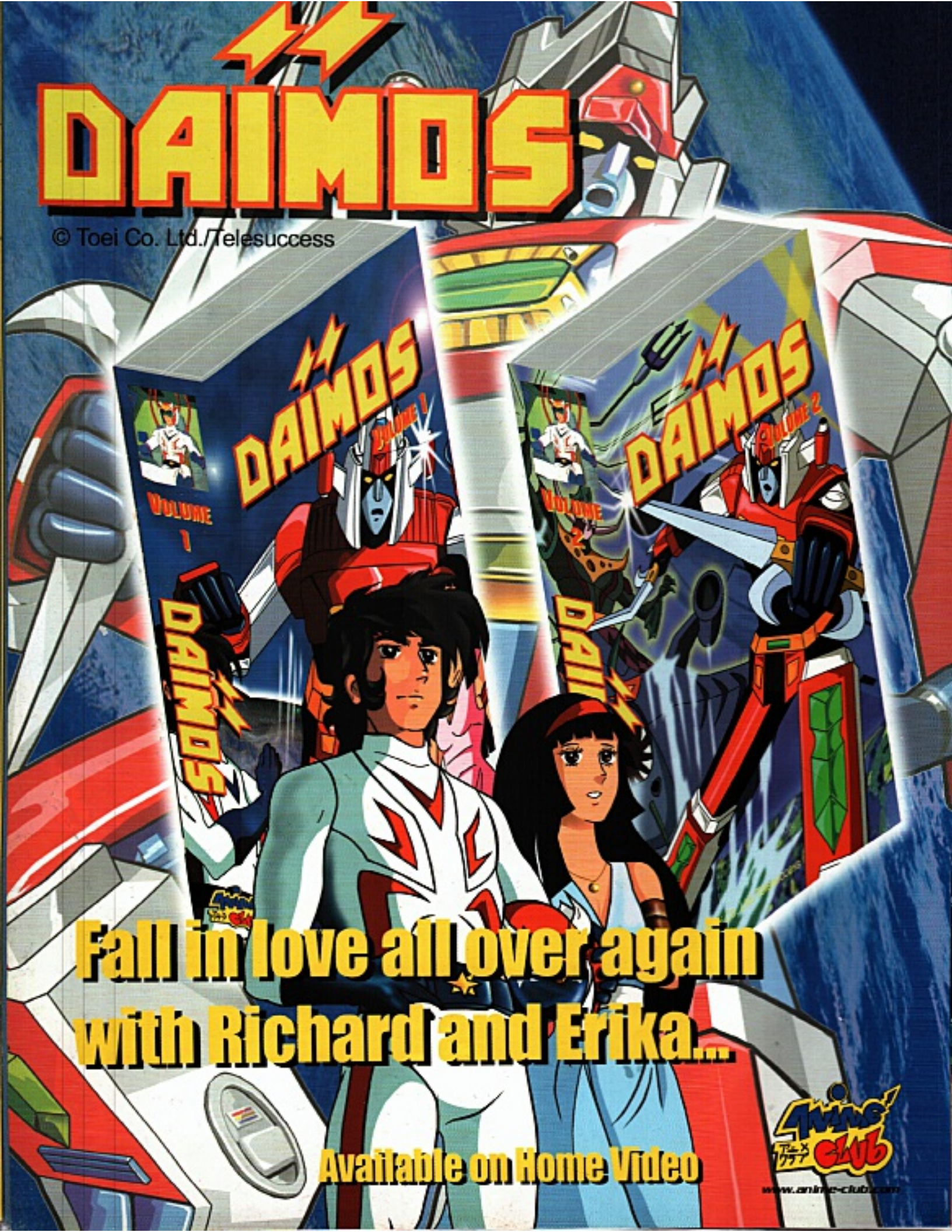
For those people who watch the series *Cooking Master Boy* you should have seen or read the manga version of the show. What appeals in the book is the way the artist draws, his style is a mixture of Japanese anime with Hong Kong comic style influences which is very new and very well mixed. And the way he drew the food is so well detailed and realistic that it is real and yummy. But what makes this title more interesting, especially if you're the one who likes to cook, is its unique ideas and creative approach of cooking different sorts of food in many different ways. They mix different ingredients and develop new skills along the way (but often times the skill shown in the series is impossible for a normal human being to perform and master). And the author always reminded us that the chef's purpose of cooking is to make people like us happy.

In China, there are different kinds of cooking. The existence of this big country and its people is dependent on the skills and hearts of the chefs. It is said that during the Ting Dynasty the greatest chef of all will be born and will save China from the hands of the evil Underground Cooking Society. Meet Liu Mao-Hsing or 'Mao' for short, is he this so called "greatest chef"? His mother Pai, who is known as 'The Fairy of Szechuan', died and left him and his older sister Karin the family restaurant. Mao is a gifted chef who is extremely hard working and always willing to learn new tricks just like his Mom. Because of this positive attitude and creativity, he always beats even the most skilled chefs despite his age.

Other characters in the series include General Lee, who is an expert on Chinese cuisine and has a high position in the field. He sees that Mao has a very high potential to be a great chef. There's Chou Yu, the Master Chef at Yang's Spring Restaurant in Guangzhou. He becomes Mao's mentor. Chou Yu is a very strict teacher when it comes to food preparation. He doesn't show much emotion but he cares for his student and those people who eat his food. There's Mei Li, the only daughter of Chou Yu. She's Mao's friend, constant companion and assistant in his numerous cooking battles. Although Mei Li is older (and taller) than Mao, she likes him very much and supports him through all his adventures. There's Master Luo, the old master of Yang's Spring Restaurant. Although he spends most of his time hanging out at the restaurant while drinking wine, he is still well respected by Master Chou Yu and the other chefs. Old age always comes with great wisdom and Master Luo is always there to provide cooking commentary. And finally, there's the mischievous Japanese boy named Shiro. He's just an annoying kid who later joins Mao and Mei Li on their journey. He also wants to be Mao's student.

There are other odd and interesting characters such as 'Steel Stick Shell' who is known for his talent in dessert and snack making. He may be very cocky and aggressive but he sure can make great 'siu mai'. There's also an ex-underground chef named Leon who wields a powerful cooking tool called the 'Seven Star Knife' which consists of knives of different shapes and sizes that are so sharp they could cut a river in half! After learning what the Underground Cooking Society plans to do, he promises to destroy the organization by means of the 'Legendary Cooking Tools' of China. The Underground Cooking Society is an organization of chefs that practice the dark arts of cooking. But that's not all, the worst objective of the Society is to win at all costs, even if the price is destroying people's lives in the process. They are bound to accomplish this goal and it is up to Mao and his friends to stop them.

The story begins with a small but famous restaurant in Szechuan province which is now facing a major problem in the form of First Grade cook Shou An! Shou An appears seeking vengeance on the people of the small restaurant. Shou An was once a student and employee of Pai, the owner of the restaurant. Being stubborn, he doesn't listen to her during one of their past cooking session and as a result he severely burns himself and get scarred for life. Since Pai is dead, no one has enough skill to challenge him from taking over the restaurant. Mao shows up to take his deceased mother's place and defend the restaurant. General Lee shows up and declares that they have a cooking match with 'fried rice' as a theme. Shou An cooks seafood rice using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Virtua
Fighter 4

by Francis Ibañez

Everybody was Virtua Fighting

INTRODUCTION

Any fighting game aficionado, particularly the 3d one-on-one fighting kind, is familiar with it. It was, after all, the first to start the genre. Before ***Tekken*** made 3d fighting games a household name, it had to best the one who started it all... ***Virtua Fighter***.

With a ton of versions for almost every *SEGA* console from the Saturn to the now retired Dreamcast, the formerly SEGA exclusive Virtua Fighter franchise is now coming up with a console version of its latest installment, Virtua Fighter 4, exclusively for the *Sony* Playstation 2.

BRIEF BACKGROUND ON THE PREVIOUS VERSIONS

Aah...fighting games were much simpler back then...

The computer wasn't that smart and you can beat it senseless with a minimal learning curve. Virtua Fighter was around back then too. Do you still remember those boxy graphics and the bland backgrounds? Inferior by today's standards it may be, but nothing barely compared to it when it came to fun gameplay. Here are some of the VF games:

1. **VIRTUA FIGHTER – ARCADE, SATURN**
The one that started it all. The graphics were very blocky. The control was great though.
2. **VIRTUA FIGHTER II – ARCADE, SATURN, GENESIS/MEGADRIVE**
A great improvement in graphics and control. VF2 sported the capabilities of the SATURN at that time. Additional characters Shun Di, Lion Rafale join the regular cast.
3. **FIGHTER'S MEGAMIX – SEGA SATURN**
The VF cast joins this SEGA crossover fighting game with characters from ***Fighting Vipers***, ***Virtua Cop*** and other SEGA games.
4. **VIRTUA FIGHTER III – ARCADE**
The third installment sports yet more improved detail in graphics and technique. A new button is added for evasive maneuvers and side stepping. The background has a more interactive role, with different levels which affect the fight. Two more characters are added: Aoi and Taka.
5. **VIRTUA FIGHTER 3TB – SEGA DREAMCAST**
This is VF3 for the SEGA Dreamcast with a lot of features like team battle and survival mode.

VIRTUA FIGHTER 4

[Disclaimer: This was based on a test version of the game. The final version may vary.]

VF4 promises to be a big improvement from VF3 with its superior graphics. As if it could not be more detailed, SEGA managed to juice it up even more.

The graphics are gorgeous. Each character has more detail, particularly the hair and complexion. Wrinkles are distinct in Lau's face. Shun Di's beard moves more fluidly. All these little additional detail adds to the realism of the character's appearance. The costumes look more detailed as well. Kagemaru's ninja costume has chrome spots and pieces that actually move.

Some elements have been removed. The background has lost its various levels to speed up game play. The evade button has also been taken away, which means sidestepping will have to be done Tekken style, pressing up or down twice.

Additional fighters also join the mix. Shaolin monk Lei Fei and policewoman Vanessa Lewis are the new additions in the VF roster. It isn't sure though if Taka is coming back, as he wasn't part of the character selection.

With these new improvements and changes, VF4 is sure to be a PS2 hit and will give its rival, Tekken 4, a good fight.

Visit the official Virtua Fighter 4 website at: http://www.sega-am2.co.jp/vf4/

It isn't sure if Francis Ibañez is coming back, as he wasn't part of the original VF character selection.

Virtua Fighter © SEGA • TV Tokyo • TMS / TSP

SPUNKY?

TV Animation Slam Dunk Original Soundtrack
Special TV Version

by Igor Gabbad

Not bad. Not bad. If you are a rabid fan of ***Slam Dunk*** then this is one you shouldn't miss. But if you don't have extra dough, I suggest you skip this. One thing to note is that this is a vocal and BGM CD, a special TV version composed of 28 tracks. So most of the BGM that you have heard in the series are here. This also means the vocal songs here are the short versions made for TV and not the full ones. But sad to say, not all the songs are here. The TV version of opening theme "Kimi ga Sukida to Sakebitai" (I Want to Shout I Love You) sung by **BAAD** is here. It lasts for about 1:36 and is the befitting first track. There's also the TV version of "Sekai ga Owaru made wa" (To the End of the World) sung by **WANDS**. It lasts for 1:33 and is the last track.

What's missing? The ending theme "Anatadake Mitsumeteru" sung by **Maki Ohguro**. You'll have to look for that song on another CD. I would suggest ***TV Animation Slam Dunk Original Soundtrack*** or ***Slam Dunk Opening and Ending Theme Collection***, the three songs are all there without most of the BGM. Or you may want to look for the Maki Ohguro CD Single (which I was fortunate enough to stumble upon).

If you're into BGM then by all means get this CD. But unlike some BGM tracks these sound different when you don't see the visuals associated with them. You see, ***Slayers***, ***Escaflowne*** or ***Evangelion*** BGM tell you a story. You'll get an idea of what's happening even if you don't see or haven't seen the visuals. For this Slam Dunk CD, the BGM is somewhat out of context. To me they all sounded the same. Unless you really pay attention, you wouldn't connect that track three, "Shouri wo Yobu Otoko", is associated with Kaede Rukawa or that track four, "Powerful Confrontation", was played when Maki went up against Sendoh or that track five, "Rival Confrontation", was played when Sendoh went up against Rukawa or that track two, "Tip Off!", is always played whenever a game is about to start. I repeat, to me they all sounded the same, too much synthesizer play and 80s style guitar solos. I could be able to pinpoint that the song came from Slam Dunk but I couldn't tell you which part.

So that's my take on the CD. Maybe you're better off buying TV Animation Slam Dunk Original Soundtrack or Slam Dunk Opening and Ending Theme Collection when they come your way rather than this one.

Track listing

1. I Want to Shout I Love You "Kimi ga Sukida to Sakebitai" (TV Version by BAAD)
2. Tip Off!
3. Rukawa Kaede - -
4. Powerful Confrontation - Maki vs. Sendoh -
5. Rival Confrontation - Sendoh vs. Rukawa -
6. Shohoku no Five Douyou
7. Semarikuru Fuan
8. Outsider
9. Mou Dareni mo Tomerarenai
10. Hageshiku...Munashiku
11. Netsui - Omoi wa Zenkoku he
12. Hanamichi's Resolution - Ouja he no Tabitachi -
13. Timeout Shohoku - Kimitachi wa Tsuyoi! -
14. Sokkou! Hangeki Kaishi
15. Mitsui's Pride
16. Akagi's Uncertainty
17. Fired Up (Burning) Man Captain Akagi
18. Kiai wo Irenaose!
19. Mada Mada Yuzurenai!
20. Hanamichi - On the Rebound Road -
21. Norowareta Free Throw - "Hazuse Hazuse Hazuse...Ochiro Ochiro Ochiro..."
22. Garan toshita Taikukan
23. Kimi ni Muchuu!
24. Tomadoi
25. School Days
26. Dawn
27. Twilight
28. To the End of the World "Sekai ga Owaru made wa" (TV Version by WANDS)

Slam Dunk © Takehiko Inoue & IT Planning & Toei Animation

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www.anime-club.com
Magic Knight Rayearth
Available in all SM Record Bars, Astrovision, Video City, Arq Video, Odyssey, National Bookstore and other video outlets in VHS & VCD Formats.

Mysteries Left and Right: KARAKURIZOUSHI AYATSURI SAKON

Ladies and Gentlemen please put your hands together for Sakon and Ukon.

Sakon Tachibana is a young puppeteer or ventriloquist from a long line of Bunraku performers. Bunraku is the traditional Japanese theatre that uses large, perfectly detailed puppets as actors for their plays. Sakon is also the only grandson of the most famous Bunraku performer and Japanese national treasure Saemon Tachibana.

Ukon is reminiscent of Kenshin Himura from the red hair and Meiji-style clothes to the small stature. He is, however, louder, wackier, and downright funnier than the famous ruruoni. There is another difference. Ukon is a child puppet made in the early Meiji era by the famous female dollmaker Unosuke. He is also Sakon's favorite companion on and off the theater.

Together, Sakon and Ukon star in the detective anime series Karakurizoushi Ayatsuri Sakon or Doll Puppeteer Sakon (this show also called Sakon the Ventriloquist).

Sakon and Ukon's personalities are radically different. Sakon is a reserved, polite, and soft-spoken boy. Ukon abuses his mouth since he has no brains to speak of but his character is so distinct that people, even Sakon's family, often forget that he is only truly alive when Sakon uses him. Their names traditionally refer to right (Ukon) and left (Sakon), which further stresses the point that they are two sides of one personality, Ukon being the repressed, vivacious side of Sakon. With this, it's sometimes hard to tell just who is manipulating whom.

Sakon is not complaining since he gets to use this distinct dichotomy to indulge in his other favorite pastime: being an amateur sleuth. He not only has an instant "partner" in solving crimes ("Yo. My name's Ukon. Sakon's partner, a moving doll."); he also has the perfect tool to distract his quarries while he muses on whodunnit ("Ah, you jerk! I'm your partner so it's okay if you tell me first!"). He always has to resort to Ukon's help since their cases are more mind-boggling than those handled by the diminutive Detective Conan. In 'The Demon Revenge of the Abandoned School,' their very first case, Sakon is called to find out who is threatening the lives of former members of the puppeteering club of an old abandoned school. He and Ukon must find the culprit fast or else!

This first mystery gives a glimpse of the overall feel of the other puzzles that the two encounter. The stories have a lot of dialogues, not much comic relief, sadness, and death, all of which move in a rich backdrop of Japanese culture. The story arcs are sometimes violent, bloody, serious, and scary. The duo's next cases will tackle suicides, arson, family bloodshed, enchanted objects, frame-ups, ghosts, inheritances and family ties. Not much for children but definitely for those who love a good mystery and anime.

http://home.earthlink.net/~nataku/sakon.html
http://www.theblackmoon.com/Watching/sakon.htm

Karakurizoushi Ayatsuri Sakon / Ningyô Zôshi Ayatsuri Sakon (Tales of Puppetmaster Sakon / Sakon the Ventriloquist). Production Company: Tokyo Movie Shinsha. Broadcaster: WOWOW. Creators: Maro Sheraku and Ken Kobetake.

Links Cannon, Shoooooottttt!

No wonder pirates roam the Oracion galaxies, the territory has the richest mineral resources in the universe! Unmanned freight ships travel in and out of this area all the time. They have become easy prey for ruthless space pirates who are always out for easy cash, no matter what. The pirates are one group that the long arm of the law can't seem to reach. Good thing then that private corporations have established protection agencies that guard against pirates for a fee.

Chenho Li of the Private Guard Corporation has just passed away, leaving his 16-year-old granddaughter Meifon as his sole benefactor. He has one last wish, though. He has stated that Meifon should use the inheritance to run a pirate-fighting agency... free of charge!

Now, Meifon and the entire crew of her ship, Angel Links, scour the galaxy for pirate scum. Offering their services to those who are in most need of it.

— *Tenshi no Kawaii*

Angel Links © Morning Star / Sunrise / WOWOW-TV, Bandai Entertainment

PEGASUS SEIYA METEOR PUNCHI

Once upon a time, in the not so distant future, a catastrophe will disrupt the established order of the whole world. After this disaster, the Graude Foundation, Asia's largest financial consortium will sponsor an international competition called "The Galaxian Wars." The prize will be a golden armor in the shape of Sagittarius, the constellation of the centaur archer. Mitsumasa Kiddo, the foundation's leader, will die but the games will be continued by his granddaughter Saori. Young orphans from all over the world will be taken and trained in the martial arts for these games. For the participants, the competitions are just a way to prove their prowess. But the games continue for a different reason. They go on because the winners will determine the outcome of a war that has been going on since time immemorial. A war between two gods: Athena, goddess of wisdom and Ares, god of war. A war that will touch even mortal men.

Welcome to the world of Saint Seiya. A world that combines Greek, Nordic, and Chinese mythology with astrology and Japanese philosophy. A world where champions of a cause are called saints and armors are called cloths. A world of magic, honor, martial arts set in a Graecian backdrop.

Saint Seiya started as a manga by Masami Kurumada and published in Shonen Jump in 1986. Not long after it was turned into an anime produced by Toei Doga, a subsidiary of Toei Anima-

tion. It was supposed to run for 52 episodes but it became so popular that it ran up to 73 episodes and was immediately followed by a second and third season. Two OAVs and four movies have been finished so far

The series opens up with the Galaxian Wars. The games have started but several participants— Japanese Seiya, half-Russian and half-Japanese Hyoga, and Ikki, elder brother of one of the other saints— have not shown up. Saori, watching the battle from a high box is worried where her missing Saints are.

Meanwhile, in Sanctuary, a training camp in Greece, Seiya is busy trying to defeat Cassios for the right to wear the Pegasus cloth. Their mentors, Marin and Shaina, have an argument which nearly leads to a confrontation of their own. Seiya wins the match by hitting Cassios a hundred times in a second. He later names this technique "Pegasus Meteor Punch" after being given the cloth by the Master of Sanctuary. He is also given the rules of the Cloth: "They must be used only to defend the cause of Righteousness. They must never be used for personal gain or for self interest." Seiya leaves Sanctuary afterwards but not before receiving a warning from Marin: beware the dangers of opening Pandora's box.

Upon leaving Sanctuary, he is immediately challenged by Shaina. He wins, barely, and manages to break her mask. But the battle is an omen of more hard fights in this young boy's future as he becomes Athena's saint.

http://isp.nwu.edu/~jake/ss/saint.txt

Saint Seiya (Poseidon) © Masami Kurumada (Shueisha Inc./Toei Animation)•Saint Seiya (TV) © M. Kurumada/Shueisha/Toei Animation

Violence Jack: Hell on Earth

A huge comet hurtled to the earth and nearly obliterated mankind with the force of its apocalyptic impact. The world as we know it has been torn apart, shattered by a series of natural disasters. It is a nightmare. Devastating earthquakes which are said to have opened the gates of hell have left whole cities buried beneath the Earth. In this corpse stricken wasteland, a dog-eat-dog world where brother fights against brother for food, only the strongest can remain alive. There is no law, survival has become the priority. From this lawless chaos emerges the Slumking, a ruthless individual who has taken control of the once peaceful Kanto plain with the use of an iron hand and an army of felons as savage as he. From this lawlessness comes a legend. A giant with a heart of gold for the oppressed and a lust for violence against those who oppress them.

He is said to be over 7 feet tall, weighs about 500 pounds and wields a jackknife as big as a sword. He is said to know no death. Like a rabid wolverine in heat when cornered, he slashes his way cross the plain in his quest to end the evil of the Slumking. He is Violence Jack.

Violence Jack finds himself in Evil Town, three communities buried beneath steel and concrete un-

der Kanto. The communities have divided themselves into sections because of contrasting beliefs. Section A houses some seemingly normal looking men and some families. Section B plays host to Mad Saurus and his psychotic biker army. Secretive Section C is primarily made of up beautiful women disillusioned after the fate they befell in the hands of the men of Section A. Violence Jack is asked by the inhabitants of Section C to help them and maybe find a way to the surface while trying to keep the madmen of Section B from obliterating all of the inhabitants of Evil Town.

He also finds himself going up against Dante and his biker gang Hell's Wind. Seems Hope Town is under siege and they are the next in the long line of communities the gang has devastated. He finds help from the young inhabitants of Hope Town and avenging angel June, a girl whose fiancé was killed by Dante and his gang.

Violence Jack is another gory, hentai and twisted creation of Go Nagai, the creator of Mazinger Z, Kekko Kamen and Devilman. Some say that in the manga, the series is sort of a sequel to Devilman. The world was not leveled by a comet but by the force of the battle between Devilman and Satan. If you are weak of heart and stomach, this unrated anime is not for you due to the extreme sexual and violent content.

- Mad Saurus

Violence Jack © Go Nagai / Dynamic Planning Inc.

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Muggle Soup

Harry Potter CCG Review

by Mark Navarro

For this month's food-themed issue, On Deck will be featuring the *Harry Potter Collectible Card Game* (CCG). In case you know even less than I do about Harry Potter, Harry is the hero of the best selling series of novels by author JK Rowling. This young lad learns that he has magical powers, that he is in fact a wizard, and he enters the prestigious Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to develop these newfound abilities. While studying there, Harry is introduced to a fantastic world that we normal people (also known as *muggles*) never even knew existed but always dreamt about, a world where magic is real...

And the food is very, very weird. At Hogwart's, Harry and his friends eat all sorts of bizarre things like Bertie Bott's Everyflavour Beans that can match any taste albeit randomly; Droobles Best Blowing Gum that you blow into blue colored bubbles which last for days; Canary Creams which turn you into the said animal for short periods of time; Sherbert Balls that make you levitate; Pepper Imps that let you breathe fire; Sugar Quills that you can suck on in class; and one can top it all off with a cool mug of Butterbeer.

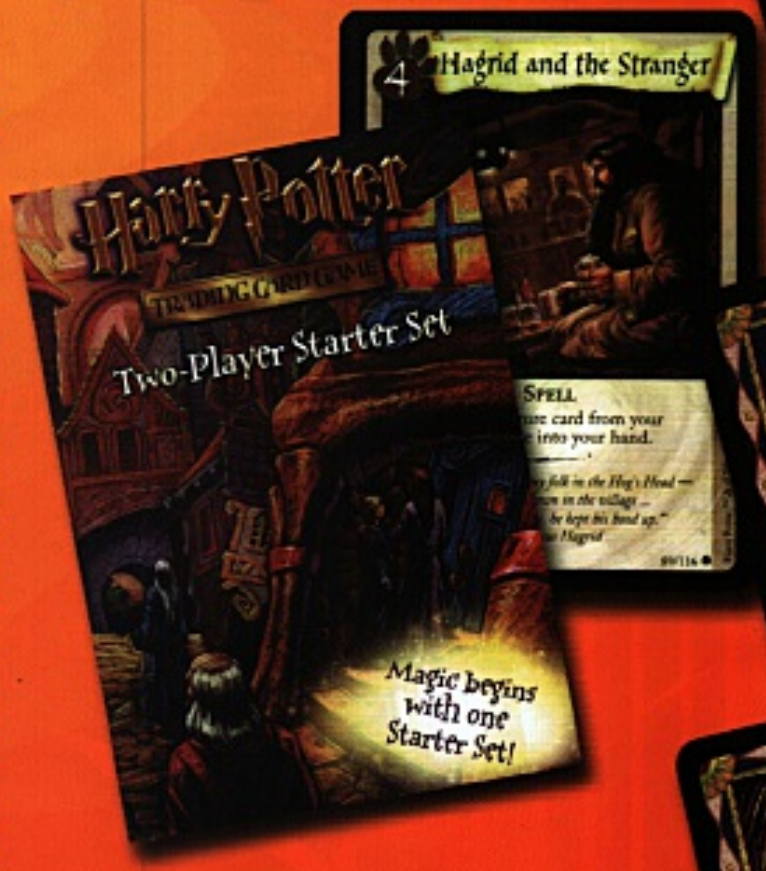
For the uninitiated muggle, the food sounds wild, with intriguing names and unbelievable effects. But once you take a chance, you'll find that they're pretty good. CCGs are like that. (Didn't think I could connect it, did you?) They have many ingredients to them — the rules, the cards, the strategies — that may be overwhelming at first but once you've gotten the hang of them and played a couple of times, you'll see that they're really fun. So...

In the Harry Potter CCG you and your opponent are both wizards from Hogwart's engaging in a duel of spellcraft. The many cards feature your favorite personalities and events from the first book. There are six card types:

Characters– These cards represent you in the game, and there are cards for every major character in the books. You can choose to play as Harry, Hermione, Hagrid the Giant or even some of the professors!

Lessons– These cards symbolize the numerous teachings you have mastered in the course of your magical education, and they are the resources you draw upon to summon creatures and cast spells. Lessons are further divided into four subjects: Care of Magical Creatures, Charms, Potions and Transfiguration. Each has a certain focus.

Creatures – These are animals and monsters that you can call on to help you defeat your opponent. Their ranks range from the ordinary, like Surly Hounds, to the strange like Norbert the Dragon.



Spells – These cards stand for your sorcery skills. With a wave of your hand, you can do anything from dealing a whopping five points of damage directly to your opponent, to making a particularly huge creature disappear without a trace.

Items — These cards are enchanted objects you employ in your duel. Generally, these wands and cauldrons give you a boost in power, although some rare ones give stronger results.

Adventures — These are cards you can play to give your opponent a challenge to overcome. These depict significant events and places like the Human Chess Game and Diagon Alley. Adventures are quite difficult but there are substantial rewards for solving one.

Here's how to play. You start the game by picking which character you want to be. Choose wisely because each character has different special abilities you can use based on their roles in the books. For example, Hermione, to reflect her studious nature, may play 2 Lessons instead of 1 once she already has 2 in play. This gives her a fast resource development curve. Next, shuffle your deck and draw 7 cards to start. After that, there are 3 simple steps in every turn.

Be careful of that last option though, as drawing too often will prematurely deplete your deck. And you don't want to do that since you lose the game when you run out of cards. Your Creatures and Spells are your means of dealing damage to your opponent, causing him or her to discard the appropriate number of cards from his deck. When your opponent's deck has no more cards, you win!

Step 1 At the start of every turn, draw a card.
Step 2 Your Creatures in play deal damage to your opponent.
Step 3 You have 2 Actions that you may use to do any of the following:
Play a Lesson card,
Play a Creature, Spell or Item card
Play an Adventure or another Character card (this counts as two Actions)
Draw an extra card.

The Harry Potter CCG is designed by Wizards of the Coast, the same guys behind the first and best CCG, *Magic: the Gathering*. Their experience in this field assures that the game will be exceptional. Rules and mechanics are solid, production quality top-notch, marketing, distribution, customer support, etc. However, like "discovering" a giant *luya* (ginger) bomb in your mother's *Tinolang Manok* (possibly intentionally put there too), this CCG brew is not perfect. And all because of one card, 4 Privet Drive. When your opponent plays this Adventure against you, you are no longer allowed to play Spells! To solve it, you must discard 6 cards from your hand. Who wouldn't play with this card? It's rarity is uncommon, it fits in any deck, and it's definitely overpowered. Once you've achieved board control (just a little CCG jargon there, folks, meaning "in control of all the elements in play"), you pop one of these babies and you've practically sealed the deal. For your opponents, this usually means a couple of lost turns where they hardly do anything, accumulating cards just to give them up, leaving them defenseless and without options. Sure, there's a reward for solving it but it hardly even begins to soothe the pain that is 4 Privet Drive, "You may draw a card." And get this, if and when your opponent solves this Adventure, you can just plop down another one next turn! This one card totally spoils the spirit of the game for me. My only wish is that players wise up and stay away from this card, use their imagination and look for more creative strategies instead of the auto-win.

The Harry Potter CCG is hardly flawless but excellent nevertheless. Just like trying out a new dish at a restaurant, be adventurous and try out this game. Looks good, tastes even better.

Mark Navarro is a mugger.

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- Animerica, Vol. 8 No. 4
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GOKITOMO

MY FRIEND THE COCKROACH

GOKIFILES NO. 4

La Desafío a Una Lucha

Written by
Igor Cabbab
Art, shading and letters by
Aldin Viray
Cover art by
Jennyson Rosero
Additional screentones by
Mark Navarro
Edited by
Bambi Eloriaga

gokiburi *n.* cockroach (Japanese)
gokiburiphobia *n.* intense and irrational fear of cockroaches.
gokiphile *n.* one who loves cockroaches.
gokitomo *n.* short for "gokiburi tomodachi" or "my friend, the cockroach".

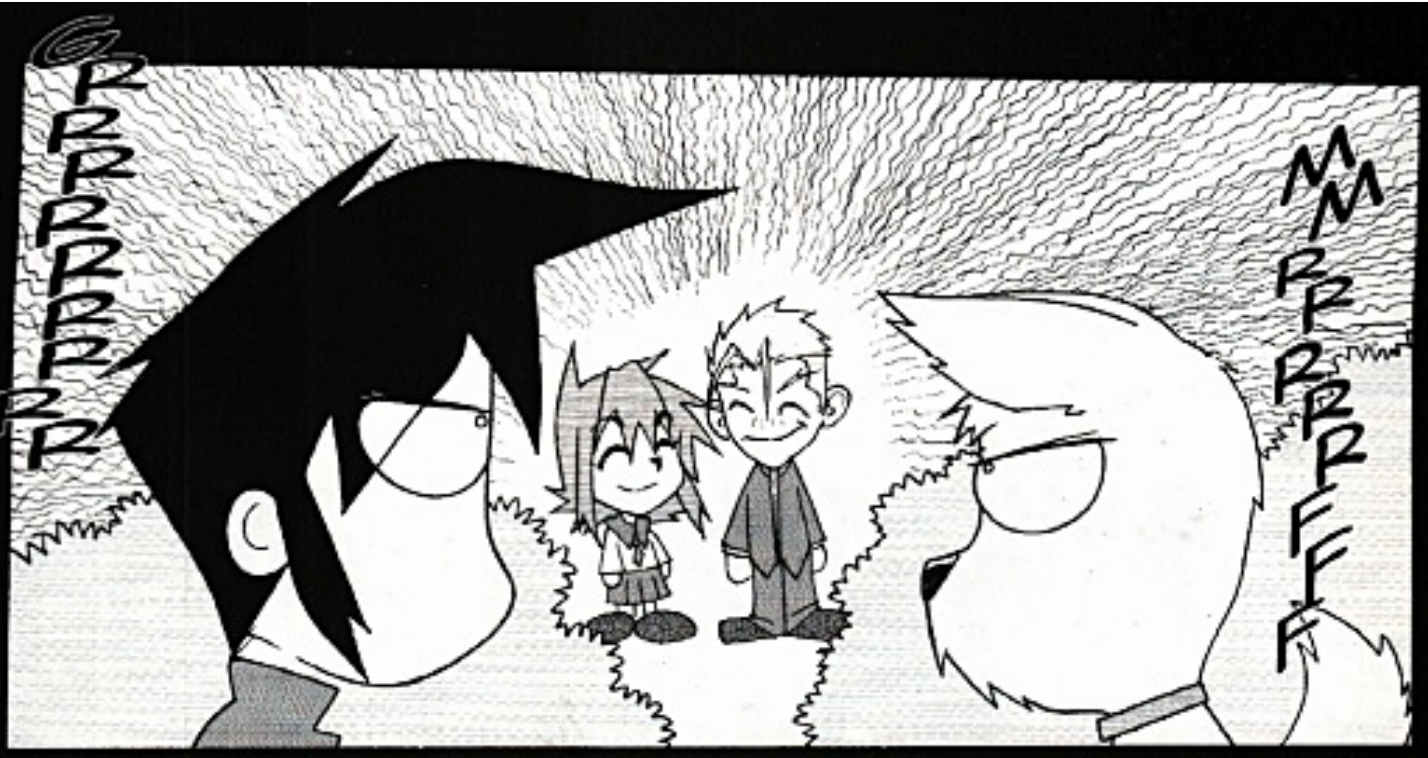
What would happen when a gokiburiphobic falls for a gokiphile? Akiko is a typical teenage girl studying in a typical high school. What makes her and her situation not so typical is, among other things, a cockroach! You see, unlike other people who keep dogs and cats as pets, Akiko takes care of cockroaches. Problem is, the boy who likes her, Mark, is deathly gokiburiphobic!

Gokitomo © 2001 Cabbab / TSP. Gokitomo: My Friend the Cockroach created by Igor Cabbab.
Akiko, Mark, Kuka, Day and Gouki character designs by Jennyson Rosero. Mool and Yuki design by Aldin Viray
Additional story ideas by Bambi Eloriaga.

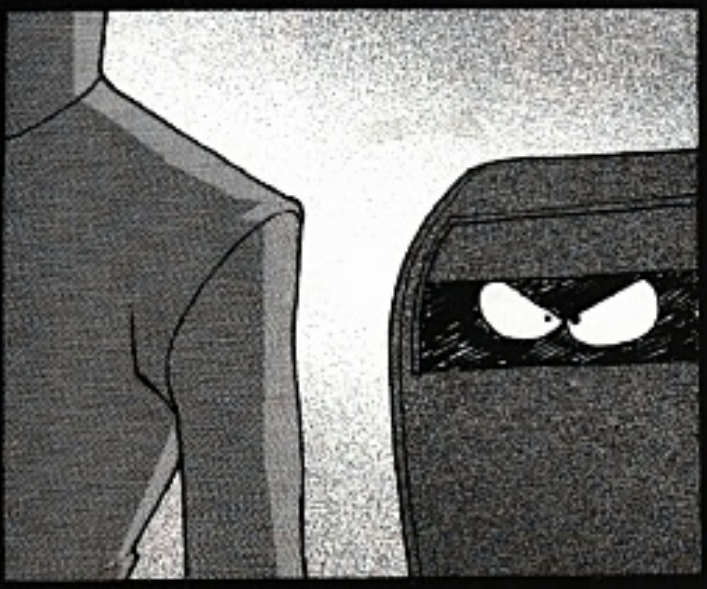
DONT FORGET TO ESCORT AKIKO HOME!
TIC TIC TIC TIC
TIC TIC TIC TIC
RIZZZGGG

TIP
TAP
TIP
TAP
TIP
TAP
TIP
TAP
TIP

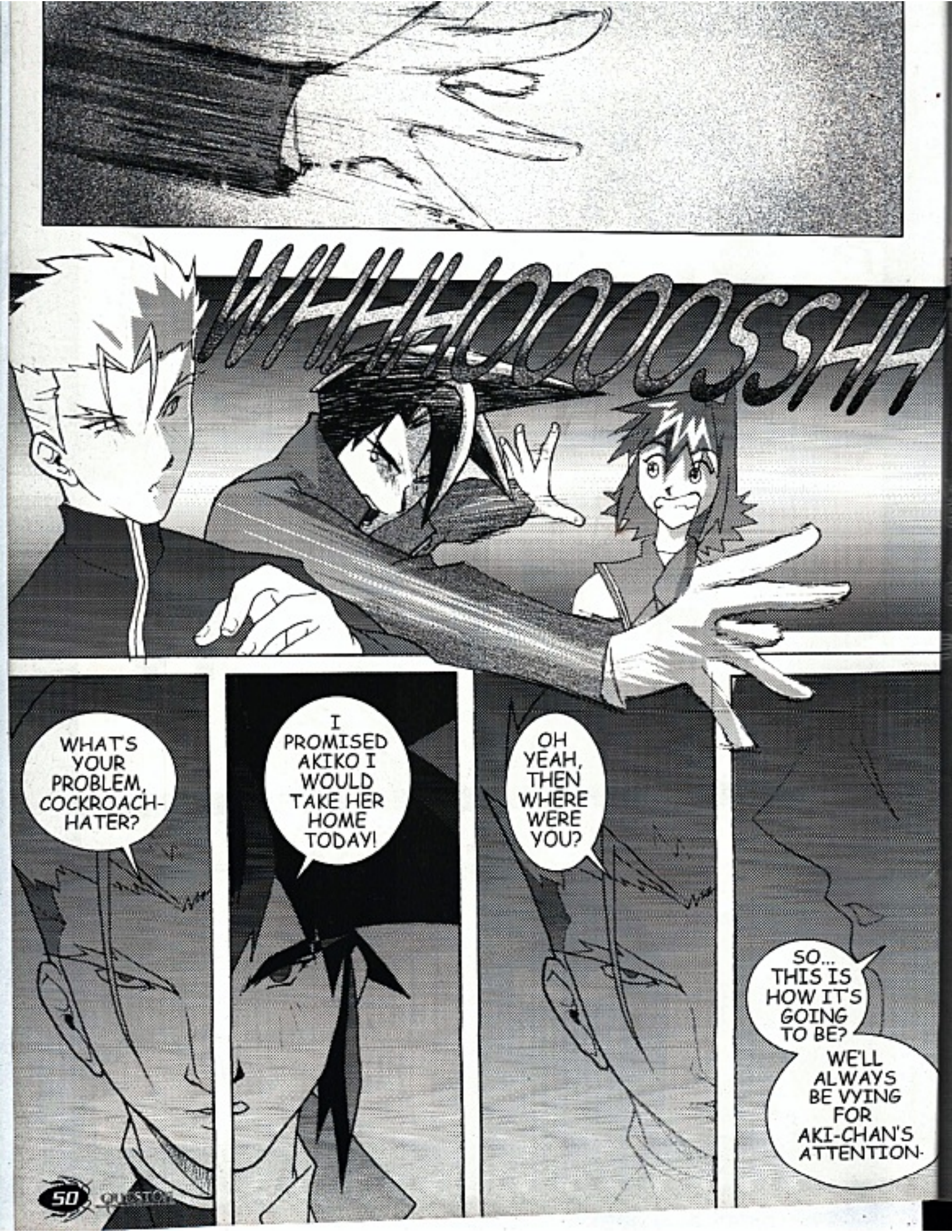
WHA?!
MOOF?

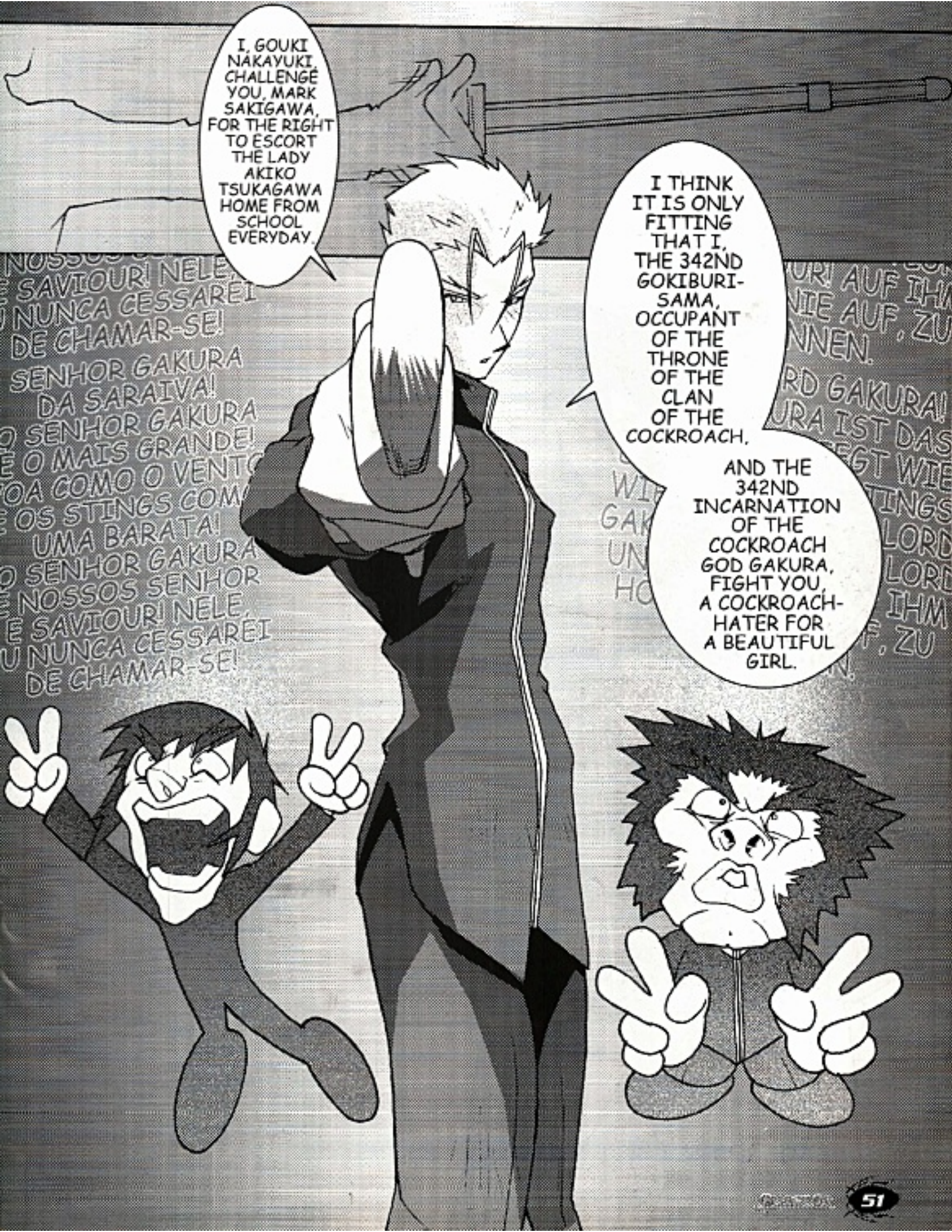

GRRRRRRRR
MMRRRRRFFFF

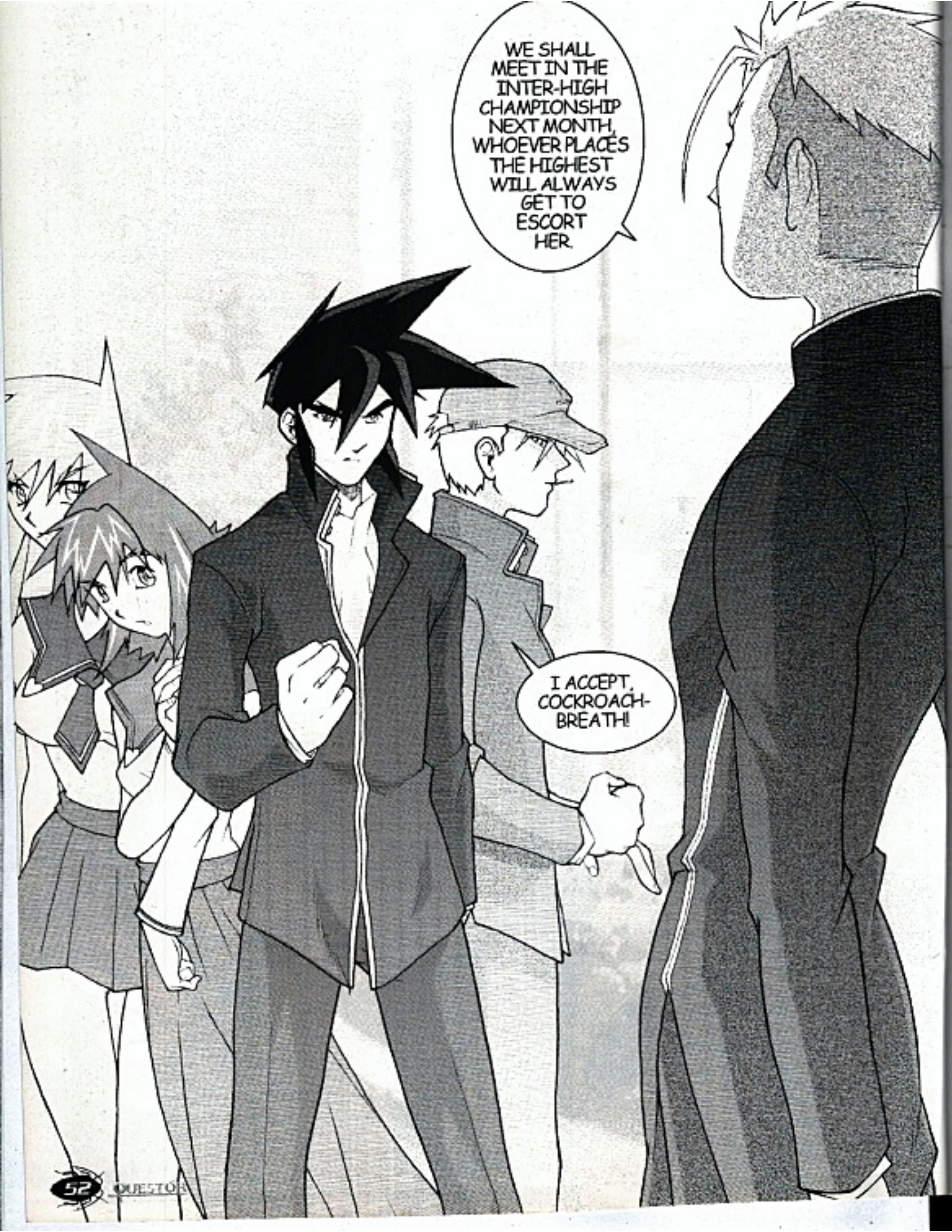
BULLETIN



MMFFF
MMFFF


WHEEOOOSSH
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, COCKROACH-HATER?
I PROMISED AKIKO I WOULD TAKE HER HOME TODAY!
OH YEAH, THEN WHERE WERE YOU?
SO... THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE?
WE'LL ALWAYS BE VYING FOR AKI-CHAN'S ATTENTION.


I, GOUKI NAKAYUKI, CHALLENGE YOU, MARK SAKIGAWA, FOR THE RIGHT TO ESCORT THE LADY AKIKO TSUKAGAWA HOME FROM SCHOOL EVERYDAY.
I THINK IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT I, THE 342ND GOKIBURI-SAMA, OCCUPANT OF THE THRONE OF THE CLAN OF THE COCKROACH,
AND THE 342ND INCARNATION OF THE COCKROACH GOD GAKURA, FIGHT YOU, A COCKROACH-HATER FOR A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.
SAVIOUR! NELE, NUNCA CESSAREI DE CHAMAR-SE!
SENHOR GAKURA DA SARAIVA!
SENHOR GAKURA O MAIS GRANDE!
OS STINGS COM UMA BARATA!
SENHOR GAKURA NOSSOS SENHOR
SAVIOUR! NELE, NUNCA CESSAREI DE CHAMAR-SE!


WE SHALL MEET IN THE INTER-HIGH CHAMPIONSHIP NEXT MONTH, WHOEVER PLACES THE HIGHEST WILL ALWAYS GET TO ESCORT HER.
I ACCEPT, COCKROACH-BREATH!

CMON...
...WE HAVE A LOT OF PRACTICING TO DO.
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
PARDON ME, MISS.
A
BIFF

EEEEEP!

MY BEAUTIFUL COMPLEXION! I'M BREAKING OUT INTO RASHES!

THIS ONLY HAPPENS WHEN I COME INTO CONTACT WITH COCK-ROACHES!

WAAAAHHHHH!!!!!!!!

WIRK WIRK WIRK

C'MON CASSANOVA.

YOU PROMISED TO WALK ME HOME, DIDN'T YOU?

WHO IS SHE?

TO BE CONTINUED...

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We here at ***Questor*** know how to appreciate talent. So get those creative juices flowing and show us your stuff. We encourage every fanboy and fangirl to send in their artwork (originals, don't trace over somebody else's drawings!) to **Doujin Drawing Board** c/o Questor Magazine, 206 Quadstar Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, Philippines.

Your masterpieces should be no larger than 8 1/2" by 11". You can use pencils, crayons, markers, pen and ink, whatever works for you. As much as possible, try not to fold your artwork. Those folds give us a hard time, you know.

Those who want their works returned to them should send us a **self-addressed stamped envelope** with their entries. Oh, we can't process any entries sent via email at this time.

The best part is if you're good enough (or lucky enough), you'll be the Questor Pick of the month and we'll GIVE YOU A PRIZE!

Hoookey… Just an off-topic note for one and all. Got typhoid fever last October. Jeez, so I'd advise everyone to take care. Watch what you eat and drink. Anyway, one thing that has been going on for some time now is the emergence of a new mode of communicating with Questor. So we've got snail mail, e-mail and now … tantanan-nan! CELLPHONE E-MAIL!!! Thanks also to those who wrote in like: Zell Espleta, Scarlet Hanabishi, Karla Balagtas, Hitokiri, Sakura Shinguji a.k.a Tomoyo Daidouji, bayyon girl Rei "Hyren Akiko" Nishie, Gaea1899, Yumi Matsukoda and Anime Master Takani Paulo Bana. So enjoy the usual rants and raves contained hereon, herewith and hitherto.

Phone-y Mail

Your mag's nice. In fact I have 9 copies. I like reading it, most specially d 'Gokitomo' part. Not to mention the Cosplay pics where I go 'haha' all d tym. I noticed that your mag is getting better. Anyway, I hope you'll feature El Hazard, Saber Marionette, Thunder Dou & Rinoa (FF8).

Ruvie "khidz"

Tnx 4 featuring Sakura Wars & Gatekeepers last ish. I wish you'll make posters of dem coz i lyk dem a lot! But about d SLAYERS thing, why is it dat Gourry's name is pronounced Gouddy in Tagalog version? More power!

Kaisona

Sana mayron mabilhan dito sa Binan, Laguna (I hope there's a place to buy your mag here in Binan, Laguna). *SM Southmall lang kasi ako nakakabili* (SM Southmall is the only place where I could buy) & I can't always go there.

Celalitagtag

Ur mag really rocks. Can u pls feature Ruriko of Gatekeepers as anime babe?

Benjer

I just want to say that I love Aira Kirisawa very much!

xnzero

*Okay, we'll try to see what we could do with the things you brought up. ^_^*

Bat gaya gaya kayo sa Culture Crash ang gayahin nyo ay ang retail price nila. (Why do you copy Culture Crash? Why don't you copy their price instead.)

xk-69

Hah? If you haven't noticed, Culture Crash is colored, we're doing Gokitomo in shades of gray. Since the CCCom fighters are better at color, we didn't want to clash (pun intended). Besides, we're on good terms with Jessie and the gang. So we decided to pursue more traditional manga styles complete with the screentones. This was the consensus of me, FY girl Bambi, Sukebe Jenmyson and muppet boy/Moofy look-alike Aldin. Besides, I don't see Memer and Dante in Gokitomo. The price? Er, haven't you noticed the size difference between Questor and Culture Crash?

Bambi Hong-y Mail

As I kept on scanning your great mag from time to time, from issue to issue (sorry for the cheesy poetry), I just realized that hensucho Bambi-san kind of reminds me of Yui Hongo from FY. Really. No kidding. I think their features are quite similar to one another. I wonder how Bambi-san would react on this one.

Moonlight Dreamer

Awww. Bambi-san is glad coz Yui is pretty daw. "gag"…"cough"…"cough"… "wheez!"

Tegami de Gokibur-y et al

I just got my hands on the latest Flame of Recca issue and I was disappointed. It wasn't anything big after all—just a Tokiya anime dude and a small sidebar with the concept of FoR anime. But I did love the posters!!! Big thanks for that!!! Just a few inquiries/requests:

1. Pleeeeez make an issue featuring lotsa stuff about Slam Dunk!!
2. Could you feature the stuff about the FoR manga, sometime in the future?
3. I've been wondering who the gray haired guy in the previous Gokitomo advertisements is...Why is he not in the manga itself? Or is he gonna appear sometime later?

To the artists of Gokitomo: I really love the artwork!!! It's better than a lot of Jap. made manga!! I just find the plot kinda absurd though...

Thanks for hearing me out! And continue the good work! You guys are really creative and cool!!!

Warfreak

By now I think you've already been introduced to our good friend Gouki. Sakura Shinguji a.k.a Tomoyo Daidouji also asked us about it. "sigh" Aldin-san and Jenmyson-kun say thanks. Hehehe, absurd? Absurd din yung mga gumawa, e.

To Mr. Igor Cabbab: Keep it up with the Watashi-tachi...Bwaah-ha-ha-hah! Makes me laugh 'til I drop (esp. the Jenmyson Rosero and the Sept. ish) ^_^! Ur GOKITOMO's looking good. Hope somehow it may help me with my gokiburiphobia. Not only do gokiburis look like shrunken monsters, they're also bacteria with 6 legs. Akiko amazes me with her immune system. Keep those CRAZY ideas rollin'. U'RE THE MAN!!!

gokiburiphobiac

Irene

Awww, arigato! Hey, that's a new word! Gokiburiphobiac. At first I thought you meant gokiburiphobic. ^_^ So you're a gokiburiphobic gokiburiphobiac!

Just got your latest issue and I'm so IMPRESSED. I liked your Gokitomo thingy, it's just so cute! Question... the one who holds Akiko after she goes out of the house was her dad right? Also thanx for appreciating my e-mails but can't I see my mail in your mag? And also ur watashi-tachi finale is so funny, having all the anime in one story (brilliant, ne?)

Triczian Cute-Kun

*Yup, it's her dad. And no… you can't see your mail in our mag…ever! ^_^*

ALLO!!! This is my first time writing to your wonderfully amusing mag! Sad to say that I just started my collection (of sorts) when you had the first Gokitomo comic (ok, I know its manga). When I mean manga, I mean having to read from right to left. EXTREMELY ENTERTAINING STUFF!!!

Nicco

Hmmm, making Gokitomo read from right to left…Hmmm. Nice idea you got there.

And Now-y Mail

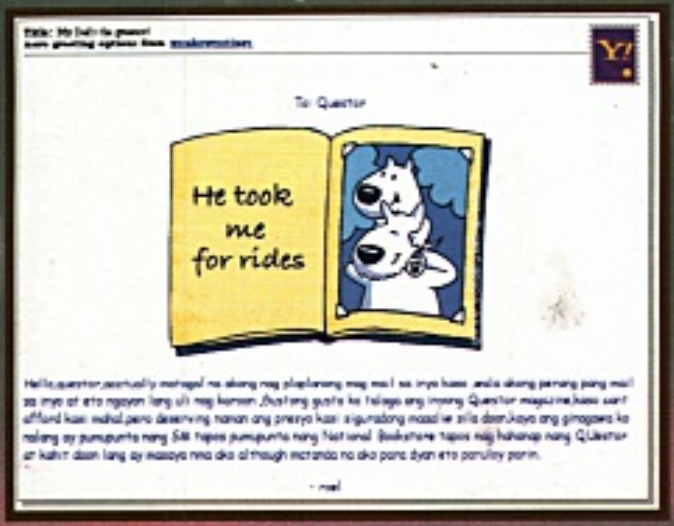
Hey, just wanna say you got the funkiest magazine in town...in the country pala! Anyway, I've been a regular customer of your AMAZING magazine, I was lucky enough to have the first issue kasi last copy na yun sa Booksale somewhere in Sta. Mesa, and collector's item na yun di ba? I don't mind the price as long as I'm satisfied with the contents, the heck! I am the only office-girl who buys Questor and I sure don't mind what people think or say! Hail

Questor and the people behind it!! You've done a good job people, continue, continue.

Cecil Arcilla
Makati City.

PS. Parang awa nyo na, print nyo na 'to pls.? Pangatlo ko nang letter ko na,parang awa nyo na, kahit minsan lang,pls.pls.pls. *(Please print my letter. This is already my third one. Pretty pretty please?)*

*No! Like what I said to Triczian_Cute-Kun, you can't see your mail in this column... EVER!!! ^_^*



Sugoi!! Omae no mag, datsuki degozaru yo! Boku wa onikiri battousai degozaru.

Jbag

*Hai. Niza para saber que usted tuvo gusto del compartimiento. ^_^*

Just got my copy of vol.2 no. 9. But my baby brother snatched it from me (he's like Lupin the IV) and wrecked the front and middle pages! Luckily my mom was there to iron it demo. It lost it's great smell of your ceramic bodies.

Son Gohan, the great Saiyajin

Why did you name the mag "Questor"? Does this name have any special meaning? I saw Aldin Viray's character in your Watashi-Tachi section of the September ish. I was wondering why his slippers looked like someone just glued them to his feet.

Uriel Moerae
Leader of the Anti-Mush Corps.

Our boss named it because of the original magazine 20 years ago which also dealt with science. Nope, the slippers are not glued. They're nailed to his feet from the bottom.

Hi! My name is Megumi Sugawara. (I'm pure Japanese.) I'm buying Questor since the very first issue. I enjoy reading it every month,especialy "chain mail" and pages of cosplays. About Gokitomo? Mmmm...well as a reader of Japanese manga...(I read a lot of manga)...well..its ok! Because,the drawings are nice! (but I dont like the "sailor fuku" of Aki) The stories are.....never mind, never mind! Just keep up your good work! Next topic. Can you do some thing about the poster? (At least make a CARD CAPTOR SAKURA!) And most of all! Please please please please please (times95!) feature more "Shin Seiki Evangelion"! (It's my ichiban, best,no.1 sukina anime!) Onegaaaaa! At least some pictures! Thank you for reading my wagamama mail! And happy anniversary!

Megumi Sugawara

Ms. Elorriaga, I envy you, na-interview mo na si Mr. Mahiro Maeda and he's that cool?! He's worked with most of my fave anime, shocks!!!!

Edoki_abnoy_alabuton

I also noticed the your WATASHI-TACHI about Graphic Artist Aldrin Viray and almost all of the other staff members are full of hocus-pocus.

Mark Dale Jamolin
x_samurai_battousai@yahoo.com

*They're not hocus pocus! They are all our real life stories. ^_^*

Correction-y and Announc-y Mail
I'd like to make a correction. In your August issue, where you featured the AXN Festival Cosplay event, I remember quite nicely the Nuriko cosplayer's photo with the caption "Nuriko to Judge Bambi: 'Yes, I know you hate Fushigi Yuugi'". Actually, you placed the wrong photo. That other Nuriko wasn't the same person who gave that comment while you were doing the judging; it was me. I just felt it necessary that I clear this mistake up because for all I know, that girl is like, wondering when she said that.
Anyway, hope you hotshots continue doing your stuff.
From

Azalea B. Napeñas
a.k.a. the outspoken Nuriko

So that was you. Waitaminit, how sure are you that the other Nuriko cosplayer didn't say that to Bambi too?

Why is the first page (of Gokitomo) the only one colored (is it a mistake or a dry run)? Well it looks good in color. How many pet roaches does Miki have (A thousand? A hundred? C'mon, fez up). It's already in its second chapter but why can't I see anything besides the pets(?!?). Lastly the Public Announcement (hopefully it will not be late to be printed)
What: Sourcers Council Meeting
Why: 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL
When: November 30, 2001
where: Lotus Dome (Hall of Silence)
Who: All MEMBERS
NOTE: PLEASE GO ON YOUR FORMAL ATTIRE AND BRING YOUR MEDALIONS. FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT OPAL

Emmanuel Dela Cruz

*Her name is Akiko, not Miki. We really only do one colored page so that that page would be special. Is that really Sourcers? ^_^*

So that's all for now true believers. Hope you enjoyed the last Anime Convention. See you in the near future.

Igor
Marvelous Managing Editor

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watashi-tachi

Cecil Estrada Contributor

By Igor Karkaroff

I left the window open that night. I don't know if it would have had any bearing had I left the window shut. On hindsight it probably wouldn't have mattered, he could have opened it anyway with a mere thought. When the clock struck to signify the passing of night to a new day, he came, the man named after a prayer. Man was he or monster? I do not know to this day. He floated up from the ground and alighted on my windowsill. I couldn't scream, I felt drawn to him. It was a feeling whose breadth I have never ever felt before in my entire life. He knelt on my bed as his eyes captivated mine in an inescapable stare. I did not object. He took me in his arms and we locked in a passionate embrace, a wanton act I had vowed never to allow any man to do. But I couldn't resist. My heart was filled with burning desire quite unlike anything ardent I had ever known before. I wished my sisters were there to see everything. Maybe the power of us three could validate what was happening to me. Then it happened... he kissed my neck... and drew blood. I moaned. Charmed was I and then I could see the whole world in a new and different light. "For the blood is the life," he said, and I agreed. I will never again be able to play as beater for my coven. Never again would I be able to speak a spell or utter a curse. Never again would I help hatch a dragon or concoct a potion. Never again will I wear a cloak of invisibility. For he is at my side. He will guide me. I cast away my mortal vestments and turned my back on the ways of old that I had practiced since my youth. I looked up to the night sky and flew with him on the wings of immortality, not afraid of any clan, slayer or any hunter with an initiative. This is the place. I will make this my sanctuary!

anime 101

Dem Wild Anime Hair-dos

by Bambi Elenique

In Vol 2 No 2 of *Questor*, we discussed about eyes and their correlation to the emotions and, generally speaking, the personalities of anime characters. In the same vein, we would like to get into anime hair and how it reflects the personalities of characters.

Here are some examples:

Regarding females, those with long, straight hair are usually timid, gentle and kind like Rem Saverem of *Trigun*. On the other hand, those with very short hair are generally regarded as athletic, even tomboyish, and business-oriented like Hitomi Kanzaki, Meryl Strife and Nanami Jinnai.

Those with pigtails are usually bubbly, sunny and childish like Shampoo from *Ranma 1/2* and Koran from *Sakura Wars*.

Wavy-haired females are usually from royalty or are those with a high social status like Princess Millerna from the *Vision of Escaflowne*. When hair covers an eye, it connotes an air of mystery like Karla in *Record of Lodoss War*.

With regard to males, those with long flowing hair are seen as wild and sexy like Allen Schezar and Touga of *Revolutionary Girl Utena*. Guys with hair parted at the middle are dependable like Shohoku co-team captain Kogure. Those with crew cuts are military types who are strict and strong like Gorilla Akagi and Leon from *Bubblegum Crisis*.

Hair color also gives a clue as to the character's personality. Blue/black haired people are gentle and quiet. Yellow-haired ones are usually dumb and air-headed. White means evil, red denotes an explosive temper and green is weird and mysterious.

Keep in mind, though, that we are speaking generally here. There are always exceptions to rules. However, if you think about it, anime in many ways sticks to a lot of stereotypes and standards. This includes the hair types that we've just discussed. Now go forth and amaze your friends with your newfound anime knowledge. ^_^v

Source: The Art of Anime Hair. *http://www.bakaneko.com/howto/misc/hair/*

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